

**Protecting Canberra's unique environment –
Expanding the Healthy Waterways project (EPSDD
C02)**



	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Capital	2,683	0	0	0	2,683
Net Capital	2,683	0	0	0	2,683
Depreciation	0	90	90	90	270
Expenses	1,721	2,040	783	945	5,489
Offset – Expenses	0	0	-117	-226	-343
Net cost of services	1,721	2,130	756	809	5,416

The Government will continue the Healthy Waterways project to improve waterway health and water quality in the ACT. The project aims to reduce nutrient loads and algal blooms in urban lakes and ponds and promote healthy rural catchments by addressing the smothering of rural riverbeds with sand deposits. The initiative includes additional funding to ensure the construction of a wetland in Belconnen Oval and new funding for a small raingarden in the Bevan St Park, Higgins. It will enable the development of a plan for managing water quality in the Lake Burley Griffin catchment and will facilitate ongoing water modelling, monitoring, research and indigenous engagement to evaluate the effectiveness of options to improve water quality and support the development of catchment plans. It will continue to develop programs to promote practices that reduce the pollution of urban waterways. It also includes operations and maintenance funding for a dozen wetlands built since 2021 as part of the Healthy Waterways project.

This initiative contributes to the wellbeing domains of Environment and climate and Health.

Parliamentary and Governing Agreement (PaGA) alignment

Parliamentary and Governing Agreement. 10th Legislative Assembly. Australian Capital Territory (PAGA):

17.9 Expand the Healthy Waterways program (\$30 million over 4 years)

Key deliverables and timetable

Task		Responsible	Timing
IMMEDIATE			
	Construction planning and delivery will continue for wetland in Belconnen Oval and a small raingarden in the Bevan St Park, Higgins.	Office of Water/Healthy Waterways	Starting in July 2023
	The effectiveness of the autumn 2023 Leaf Collective will be evaluated.	Office of Water/Healthy Waterways	By October 2023
SHORT-TERM			
	Construction of a wetland in Belconnen Oval and a small raingarden in the Bevan St Park, Higgins	Office of Water/Healthy Waterways	Starting in July 2023
	Ongoing water modelling, monitoring, research and indigenous engagement to evaluate the effectiveness of options to improve water quality and support the development of catchment plans	Office of Water/Healthy Waterways	Starting in July 2023
MEDIUM and LONG-TERM			
	A catchment plan for managing water quality in Lake Burley Griffin will be developed.	Office of Water/Healthy Waterways	March 2025
	Ongoing development of an evidence base on the effectiveness of Government investments on how our urban lakes and other waterways function allows us to identify the most cost effective ways to solve water quality problems.	Office of Water/Water Information Services	From July 2023
	Operation and maintenance funding for a dozen wetlands built since 2021 as part of the Healthy Waterways project, so the wetlands continue to improve water quality as designed throughout their lifecycle.	Office of Water & TCCS/Roads ACT	From January 2024

Previous Funding Provided / Project development details

This initiative builds on recent Government actions in this area including the initial Healthy Waterways Project (2014-2021), the 2020-21 Budget initiatives *Clean Catchments, Clean Waterways* and the 2021-22 Budget Review initiative *Protecting Canberra's unique environment – Further Expanding Healthy Waterways*.