



**ACT**  
Government

Environment, Planning and  
Sustainable Development

EPSDD Ref No.: 22/52587

## Response to DLO Request

**\* All information provided should be factual.**

**EGM clearance email to be saved in the Objective file and forwarded to the EPSDD DLO inbox and copy in the relevant EO.**

**Subject:** Provide some dot points on Healthy waterways projects in Belconnen

**Response:**

The three sites in the north are:

1. Subsurface wetland, Belconnen oval (\$3,000,000)
  - Will divert water from stormwater pipes just upstream.
  - Consists of a gross pollutant trap (GPT), a pipe from the GPT to the first cell of the proposed subsurface wetland and then filtration of stormwater through five sequential wetland cells, all < 500m<sup>2</sup>.
  - Each cell comprises three layers:
    - Wetland soil at surface for planting macrophytes
    - A sandy transition layer
    - Gravel bottom layer permeated with collection pipes to facilitate the subsurface distribution and collection of treated flows. The water primarily flows laterally through the gravel layer, which contains macrophyte roots that filter the water.
  - There is no standing water so no risk of drowning for small kids.
  - Ancillary works include an asphalt maintenance track and tree/macrophyte landscaping, including a viewing area. This will look NICE!
  - This asset will significantly reduce pollution coming from this subcatchment.
  - **Note:** this proposal has not been communicated to public and is potentially controversial as it will take up 50% of the oval that some may use to recreate, or may bother some who worry about snakes.

We recommend that the Minister emphasises that the Belconnen Oval subsurface wetland is a proposal and that public comment will be actively sought (this is being arranged now).



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2. Kippax bioswale treatment of daylighted stormwater (\$700,000).
  - Will divert water from stormwater from pipes deep in the ground using a solar pump.
  - The diverted water will be fed into to a 70m long bioretention swale (i.e. a raingarden in a swale).
  - This will only make a minor improvement to water quality and quantity in Kippax Creek but is a trial of a key kind of asset for 'retrofitting' into crowded urban spaces that, if successful, might be more widely rolled out.
  - We doubt this will be controversial with the public, but will engage with the community nonetheless.
  
3. Yerrabi floating wetland (\$400,000; not Belconnen but Gungahlin) –
  - Comprised of a 600m<sup>2</sup> platform split between a bay draining Amaroo and the pond proper just outside this bay.
  - Will help suppress ribbonweed in the bay, which has been accumulating and rotting, resulting in bad smells!
  - Will also reduce the amount of nutrient circulating in the pond, although much more will need to be done to mitigate nutrient pollution there.
  - This project has already been talked about in public. It is due for completion by June, subject to approvals

All of these assets are being designed and built to **expand our options for water sensitive urban design**. None of the designs are covered by the existing Municipal Infrastructure Standards, so we have created new draft standards for the assets. Once the draft standards are wrapped into the existing standards then it will be relatively easy to deploy such assets across the Territory.

It may also be worth talking about our expansion of the Leaf Collective and an allied program to prevent fertilisers from entering waterways. Both will operate across Canberra.

**Action Officer: Ralph Ogden**

**Executive Group Manager: Ian Walker**

**Date cleared: 4/05/2022**