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Canberra City ACT 2601

COMMUNITY INFORMATION UPDATE

# Belconnen trunk sewer upgrade projects

## Icon Water, part of the community

Icon Water has provided water and sewerage services to Canberra for more than 100 years. As part of our ongoing monitoring and planning for the future, Icon Water is currently planning upgrades to the Belconnen trunk sewer, to ensure that we can continue to provide these services for generations to come.

### Why do we need to upgrade the sewer?

The Belconnen trunk sewer was built in the 1960s and is a critical part of the Belconnen sewerage network, serving Belconnen, Gungahlin and Hall.

Like most of Australia's capital cities, Canberra's population is growing,

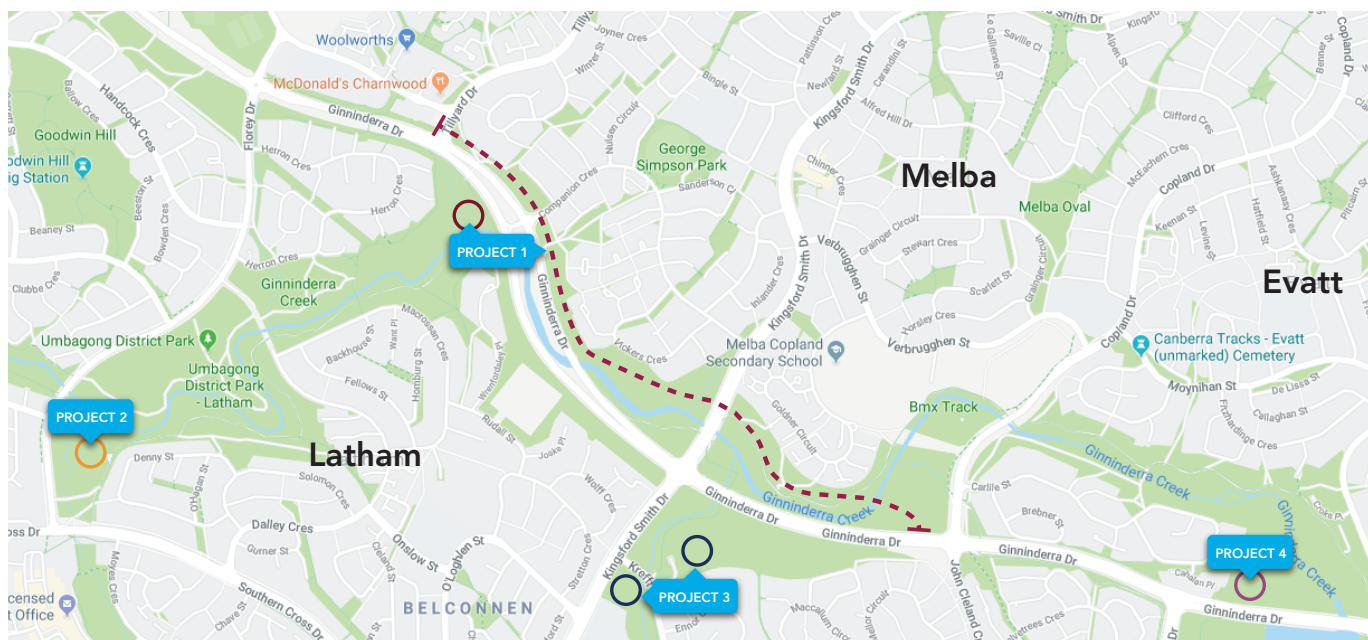
increasing demand on our water and sewerage infrastructure. Recent major development in the Gungahlin region, and planned development at the University of Canberra, the new suburb of Lawson and the CSIRO's Ginninderra Field Station, mean that the Belconnen trunk sewer is nearing capacity and needs to be upgraded.

During extreme wet weather events, rainwater and an already steady flow in the sewer can result in sewage escaping from the sewer pipes into Ginninderra Creek. Icon Water appreciates how valuable the environment and waterways are to Canberra – increasing the capacity in the sewer network will ensure that any risk of overflow into local waterways is significantly reduced.

In addition to improving capacity the network also requires some extra ventilation and odour control systems to protect new and existing sewerage infrastructure and minimise impacts to the surrounding community.

The Belconnen trunk sewer upgrade consists of four projects to be undertaken over the next few years. The upgrade projects are:

Project 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: red;">- - -</span> Belconnen trunk sewer augmentation pipeline</li> <li><span style="color: red;">○</span> North Latham Odour Control Unit (OCU)</li> </ul>
Project 2	<span style="color: orange;">○</span> Latham OCU potential location
Project 3	<span style="color: blue;">○</span> Florey OCU potential location
Project 4	<span style="color: purple;">○</span> Evatt OCU potential location



## PROJECT 1 Belconnen trunk sewer augmentation

### What is it?

This is the largest of the upgrade projects, including construction of:

- approximately 2.4 kilometres of predominately underground sewer pipe
- a pipeline bridge that will support the new sewer over Ginninderra Creek; and
- an OCU at Latham North.

### How long will construction take?

Construction is estimated to begin in mid-2020 (subject to planning approval) and would take up to two years before becoming operational. Construction works will be undertaken in stages along the corridor.

### What is the planning approval process for the project? When can I provide feedback?

Project 1 requires an environmental impact statement (EIS), which is currently being prepared for assessment by the ACT Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). The purpose of the EIS is to assess potential environmental impacts and determine how we manage these impacts to avoid or minimise them. Public feedback is important to us and essential to ensuring community views inform our approach; and are included in the Draft EIS. The EIS process and opportunities for community involvement are shown in more detail in the diagram below.

## PROJECT 2, 3 & 4 Proposed Odour Control Units (OCUs)

### What are the projects?

Three projects are proposed for:

- Latham (Project 2)
- Florey (Project 3)
- Evatt (Project 4).

These projects each involve the installation of a new structure called an OCU, and the connection of these new OCUs to the existing sewer network.

### What is an OCU? Why are they needed?

OCUs are a vital part of the sewer network as they allow ventilation and air filtration to protect the sewer pipes from corrosion. The ventilation an OCU provides extends the life of a sewer by reducing the amount of maintenance that the pipeline needs, making management of the network much more efficient. The filters used in the OCU and ventilation stacks absorb gases such as hydrogen sulphide, which is a common source of odours from sewerage systems.

### Are there other OCUs in the ACT? Do they smell?

There are nine OCU facilities already in operation across the ACT. They are designed to control odours so they do not smell.

### What does an OCU look like?

From the outside, OCUs can look very different; some resemble a small shipping container or they can be buried or partially buried in the surrounding landscape. You probably drive past an OCU every day without noticing. Inside the unit there is ductwork to extract gas from the sewer. The gas is fed through an activated carbon filter to absorb the gas and remove odour, and a ventilation stack (up to 24 metres in height) releases the filtered air back out again. You can view images of some of the ACT's existing OCU facilities on the Icon Water website ([iconwater.com.au/bts](http://iconwater.com.au/bts)).

The size of these units varies but an OCU may have a footprint of about 20 metres by 10 metres, as well as space for driveway access.

### What is the status of these projects? Can I give feedback on these projects?

Planning for Projects 2, 3 and 4 is underway. Potential sites, design options and existing environmental conditions are currently being reviewed. Once the projects are further progressed, we will be able to confirm what planning approval processes are required. It is anticipated that planning approvals and more opportunities for community feedback for these projects will begin in 2019, with construction starting late 2020.

As more details become available on these projects, Icon Water will update the website with more information.

[iconwater.com.au/bts](http://iconwater.com.au/bts)

## Community involvement - every step of the way

