

## MINISTER'S FOREWORD



The Banksia St wetland is a true community partnership project which will be a very valuable asset for the O'Connor community.

Our experience with the nearby David St wetland has shown that active community involvement greatly enhances the wetland.

The ACT Government is proud to be partnering with the Australian Government and Sullivans Creek Catchment Group in developing the Banksia St wetland. I hope you will take the opportunity to get involved in this project. We look forward to working with the O'Connor community on this wonderful project.

**Simon Corbell**

Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water

## BANKSIA ST WETLAND FACTS

- The wetland site is located adjacent to Banksia St, next to the Tennis Club in O'Connor
- The wetland area will be 820 square metres, consisting of a 1.4 metre deep open water section and a shallow area 0.3 metres deep
- Wetlands that include both ponds and shallow sections with plants have higher biodiversity than ponds with only open water
- The pond will be planted with macrophytes (aquatic plants) and the shallow or ephemeral zone with sedges and herbaceous plants
- Large rocks in the ephemeral section will provide shelter for frogs during dry periods
- A number of on-site trees will be removed during construction – trunks will be reused in the pond to provide a perch and safe haven for water birds and turtles

- Local native grasses, shrubs and trees will be planted around the wetland edges

- The construction period will be about 6-8 weeks, followed by a program of community planting

### ARE WETLANDS SAFE FOR CHILDREN?

- The sides of the wetland will be gently graded to 1 in 6 so there are no sudden level changes. Once established, thick bands of macrophytes (aquatic plants) will prevent children from accessing the water

### WILL THERE BE AN INCREASE

### IN MOSQUITOES?

- Mosquito numbers will be controlled by grading slopes to ensure no stagnant pockets of water form, and by incorporating a wide variety of plants and predators.

## PARTICIPATING IN PLANTING & CARING FOR WETLANDS

You have an opportunity to participate in landscaping this wetland. Just like our nature reserves, a wetland needs a carer group. The group's activities will include ongoing planting, weeding, mulching, rubbish removal and water quality monitoring. Opportunities also exist for recording birds and frogs.

## KEEN TO PARTICIPATE?

If you would like to participate in planting the wetland or become a member of a supported care group to look after the Banksia St, David St, Dickson or Lyneham Wetlands, please contact the Urban Waterways Coordinator.

## BANKSIA ST WETLAND O'CONNOR

SULLIVANS CREEK CATCHMENT

*wetlands for our suburbs*

## CONTACT US

**Edwina Richardson**

Urban Waterways Coordinator

Phone: 02 6207 5520 / 0466 153 641

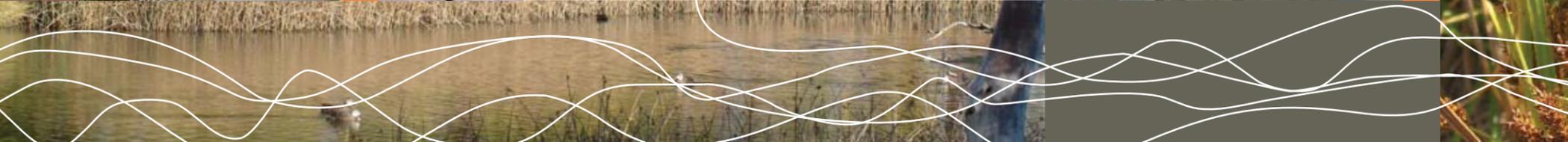
Email: [edwina.richardson@act.gov.au](mailto:edwina.richardson@act.gov.au)

Website: [www.environment.act.gov.au/water](http://www.environment.act.gov.au/water)



\*Clean Bill  
SULLIVANS CREEK  
CATCHMENT GROUP INC

DESIGN [www.design-edge.com.au](http://www.design-edge.com.au)



# SULLIVANS CREEK CATCHMENT WETLANDS

## BANKSIA ST O'CONNOR

This will be Canberra's first retrofitted urban wetland to incorporate an ephemeral section which dries out in summer. Ephemeral wetlands occur throughout southern Australia. These shallow areas are inundated after rainfall and dry out during summer. Spiky sedges, native grasses and broad leaf plants grow in ephemeral wetlands and adapt to both wet and dry conditions. The wetland will reduce pollutants from the stormwater flows collected from the concrete channel and provide habitat for water birds, turtles, yabbies, water bugs and frogs.

## DICKSON & LYNEHAM WETLAND PONDS

A wetland in Dickson is being planned for development near the Dickson sportsgrounds and another in Lyneham adjacent to Goodwin St. As well as providing water quality improvement and urban habitat, these water features will supply stormwater to irrigate nearby sportsgrounds. The level of the ponds will vary as water is drawn down and delivered to irrigators.

## DAVID ST O'CONNOR (CONSTRUCTED)

The wetland at David St, located behind the O'Connor shops, was built in 2001 by Sullivans Creek Catchment Group and Canberra Investment Corporation. The wetland provides an attractive water feature for passive recreational activities and has the potential to improve property values.

