



DEPARTMENT OF  
THE ENVIRONMENT,  
CLIMATE CHANGE,  
ENERGY AND WATER

## FACTSHEET

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### FLEMINGTON ROAD PONDS PROJECT

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#### **What is the Flemington Ponds project?**

The Flemington Road Ponds project is part of the Canberra Integrated Urban Waterways project announced by the ACT Government in November 2006. The aim of the pilot project is to reduce demand from irrigators on potable water by increasing supplies of non-potable water.

#### **What will it do?**

Flemington Road ponds non-potable water project is part of the Sullivans Creek water quality improvements. It is a water reticulation scheme to store water in ponds and underground aquifers for the use of large irrigation end users.

#### **Why do we need it?**

The project will improve water quality in Sullivans Creek, save about 600,000 kiloliters of potable water per annum, and provide a diversified “fit for purpose” water source at a cheaper cost to end users.

#### **What did it cost?**

\$6.3 million.

#### **Who paid?**

This project is funded as part of a Commonwealth Government \$10.2 million grant funded by the National Water Commission under the Water Smart Program, now administered by the Department of Environment, Water Heritage and the Arts, with the ACT Government contributing over \$6.8 million in other projects.

#### **Isn't it cheaper to use potable water?**

Using potable water costs large end users \$4.14/kl, including the Water Abstraction Charge (WAC). This “fit for purpose” non-potable water is significantly cheaper than potable water to end users.

#### **What will the water cost end users?**

The charging price will be a Government decision, but it will provide a saving to end users at a rate yet to be quantified.

**Are there other benefits beyond reduction in use of potable water, ie environmental or community?**

The project contributes to Water Sensitive Urban Design with benefits including reduction in peak flood flows and improved water quality. The CSIRO report for this program has shown that for new and existing ponds an increased draw-down for short periods significantly improves water quality as a larger variety of macrophytes (aquatic plants) in the ponds can be established.

**Is the water treated?**

Water is treated as it passes through the ponds, which has been sufficient in other cases, however options have been identified as part of the CSIRO report to include a bio-filter if the need arises. The Environment Protection Authority will include the ponds as part of its routine water quality monitoring program.

**Who will use it?**

Predominantly large water users such as parks and sporting bodies.

**Will it be safe to use on ovals? Will there be health effects if kids fall?**

Most watering is done at night to provide more efficient water use, and when ovals are not being used for sporting activities. Non-potable water is already used on some sporting facilities with no ill effects.

**When will the second pond be finished?**

Approximately August 2009.

**What are the Dickson and Lyneham ponds?**

Dickson and Lyneham ponds are proposed water quality ponds in Sullivans Creek as identified in previous studies and reconfirmed in the recent CSIRO report. The selected design consultant will identify options to meet the aims of the scheme.

**How much will they cost?**

The 2009-10 ACT Budget provided \$13.9 million for the construction of the ponds.

**Do they have the same purpose?**

The ponds are being developed to improve the water quality and amenity of Sullivans Creek, and provide further non-potable water sources.

**Where will they be located?**

The selected design consultant will identify options and a decision will be made at that time.

**Will the community be consulted?**

Yes.

**Will they be safe for kids and pets - there are a lot of school children, cyclists and pedestrians that use the areas near the storm water drains.**

The ponds will provide similar safety to Canberra's many other existing ponds.

**How many jobs will be generated?**

The ponds are estimated to create about 20 construction jobs over six months.