

RAISING LONDON CIRCUIT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Chapter Summary: Climate change

Climate change is anticipated to alter the future climate of Canberra.

Recent events, such as the 2019/2020 bushfires and maximum temperature records set in 2020 have demonstrated a need to safeguard critical infrastructure in and around Canberra against climate change. Therefore, it is necessary to identify ways in which climate change may impact the Raising London Circuit project and address these impacts through meaningful action.

The following scenarios demonstrate ways in which the project may be impacted by climate change:

- ▶ Extreme rainfall impacting on drainage infrastructure resulting in localised nuisance flooding.
- ▶ Increased pressure on stormwater treatment and erosion and sediment control devices, affecting water quality.
- ▶ More frequent and extreme weather events accelerating degradation of materials and equipment (for example concrete, electrical equipment, and paved areas), and associated increases in maintenance costs.
- ▶ Decreased availability of water during periods of drought negatively impacting on landscaped areas (particularly green infrastructure).



Greenhouse gas emissions contribute to climate change. The greenhouse gases emitted by construction of the Project would be relatively minor, equivalent to approximately 0.15% per cent of ACT's total emissions and 0.00036 per cent of Australia's total emissions in 2019.



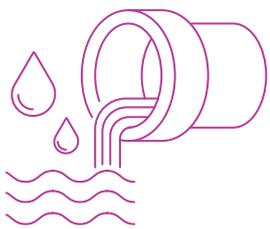


WHAT WE WOULD DO

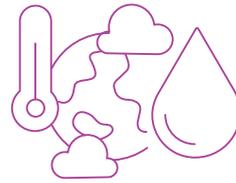
Beyond 2030, the extent of climate change impacts is uncertain. Therefore, implementing adaptation measures in design, construction and operation of the project would provide safeguards against climate change.

Despite the low generation of emissions, the Project aims to achieve net zero emissions, in alignment with the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-2025.

Key steps we are taking to increase the Project’s resilience to climate change and reduce the Project’s impact to climate change include:



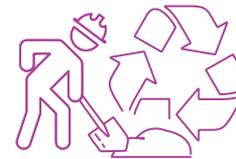
Designing stormwater infrastructure, including drains and culverts, to accommodate additional increase of stormwater during peak rainfall events



Pavement designed to accommodate wet and dry events (rainfall variability) and rising temperatures



Landscape features and plantings have been selected to resist drought and hotter conditions, including the use of mulch in planting areas to support water efficiency



Reuse and recycling of materials from demolition and clearing activities wherever possible



Maintain landscaped areas to minimise potential bushfire fuel load



Works, including earthworks, will be programmed in a way to minimise double handling of materials, reducing the amount of machinery movements, fuel and thus emissions



Prioritise local procurement of materials where practicable to reduce transport emissions.



HAVE YOUR SAY

Visit nca.gov.au and click the home page link to view the Works Approval from 30 October 2021. You can return from 20 November to 10 December 2021 to have your say via the online submission form.

You will only need to lodge your submission once and any replicated responses received through different methods will only be counted as one submission. Please see the NCA website for full details.

For more information, please visit nca.gov.au