

# Googong township water cycle project

## The Googong township

CIC Australia is developing the new township of Googong, located south of Queanbeyan, and about 16 kilometres south-east of Parliament House in Canberra.

The township will be built on 780 hectares of former grazing land. It will take about 25 years to create and include 5,550 homes of varying types and sizes to house about 16,000 people.

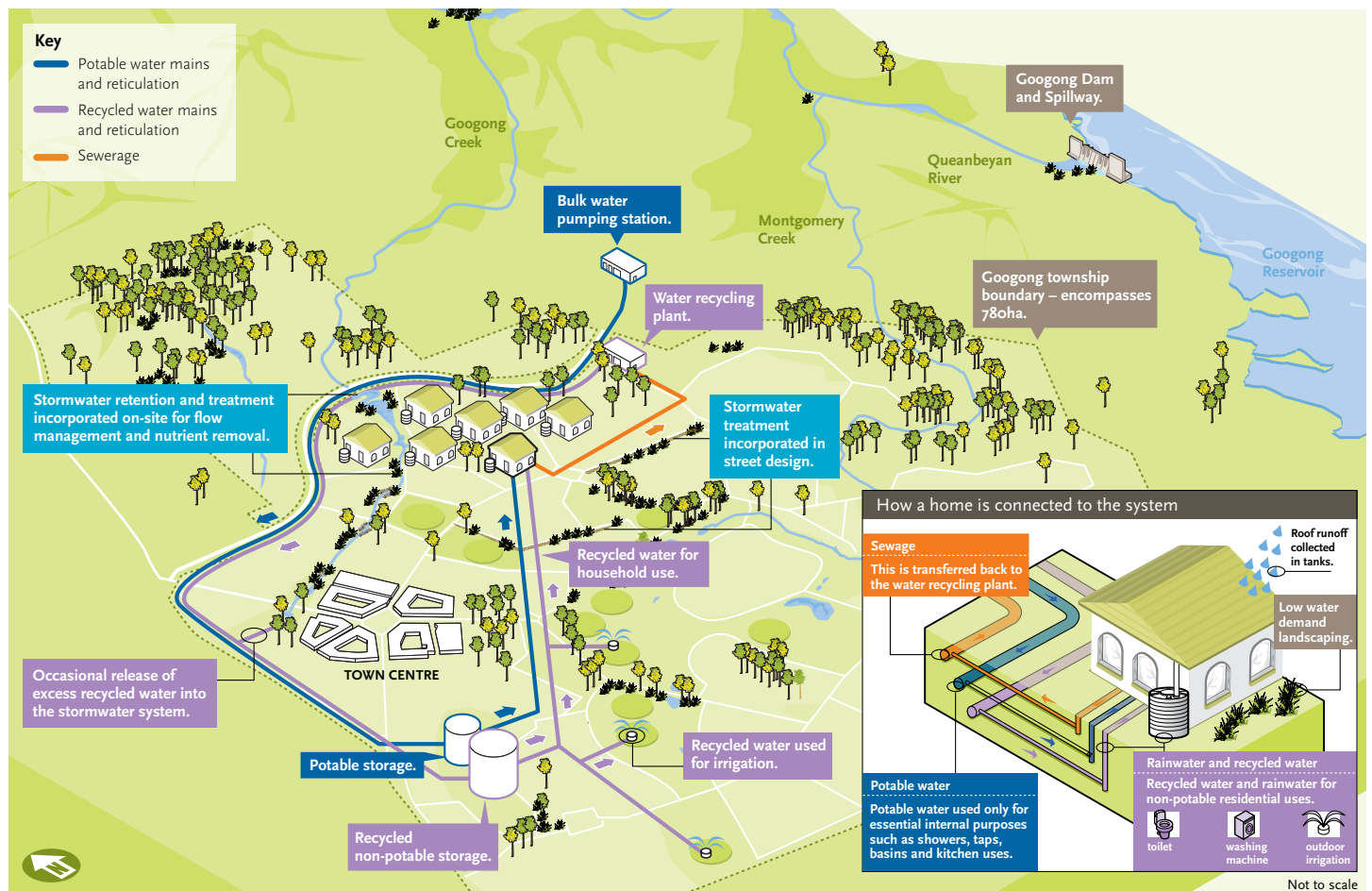
The Googong township will provide over half of the new dwellings required in the Queanbeyan region by 2031 and nearly a quarter of the dwellings required under the current NSW Sydney to Canberra Corridor Strategy.

The Googong township has been designed to be one of the first purpose-built, large-scale water-efficient communities in Australia. The township is designed around an integrated water cycle, with a dedicated water recycling plant, which will reduce potable water consumption by at least 60 per cent and recycle 62 per cent of the township's wastewater for non-potable use. This means that the eventual 16,000 Googong residents will use an equivalent amount of water as would sustain only 6,400 in a "traditional" development.

Googong will demonstrate that a truly water-efficient, ecologically sustainable town is possible, which can serve as a benchmark for future Australian communities.

## The Integrated Water Cycle project

The Googong Integrated Water Cycle (IWC) will provide the entire necessary infrastructure to recycle wastewater and supply homes with both potable and non-potable water. The recycled water system will be supplemented by collected rainwater at households and by potable water during dry periods. All of the components of the IWC and how they interact with each other are shown in the figure below.



The design concept has a number of underlying principles, strongest of which is the protection of the Googong Dam, and it should be noted that the IWC is separate from, and does not discharge to, the Googong Dam.

#### **Potable (drinking water) system**

- › A new bulk water pumping station, to connect to existing potable water infrastructure in the area.
- › New potable water reservoirs to supply the township with drinking water.
- › Potable water pipelines.

#### **Sewerage system**

- › A sewerage system to collect wastewater from the township and deliver it to the recycling plant.

#### **Water recycling plant**

- › A new water recycling plant to recycle wastewater to a high standard of water quality, suitable for non-potable use within the township and environmental discharge.

#### **Recycled water system**

- › New recycled water reservoirs to supply the township with non-potable water.
- › Recycled water pipelines.

#### **Stormwater system**

- › The stormwater management system will utilise the principles of water-sensitive urban design and manage stormwater quality, peak flows, flood risk and the local environment.
- › Excess recycled water will be released into the stormwater system from time to time when demand for recycled water is low.

#### **Delivery and impact**

The delivery of the IWC project will be done in stages and over a 25-year period. The staging allows for the capacity of the system to keep pace with the progressive growth of the township. It also allows for a bit more flexibility in the design, so if something can be improved in the next stage of development, the system can be easily adapted to what best suits the township.

Throughout the design, construction and operation of the IWC project, potential environmental impacts on the township site, the Googong Dam and Foreshores and downstream environments (including the Queanbeyan River) will be avoided and managed.

#### **Environmental assessment and approvals**

Planning for the water cycle project has been underway for several years. On 12 January 2009, the NSW Department of Planning approved the preliminary environmental assessment and determined that the project is considered a 'major project' under NSW legislation.

An environmental assessment has been prepared to meet the requirements of the NSW Department of Planning. The draft environmental assessment report was submitted to the Department in February 2010 for review by government agencies. The report was then revised to address the issues raised by these agencies in their reviews and subsequent consultation. The revised report has now been approved for public exhibition, which is occurring from 17 November to 20 December 2010.

The NSW Minister for Planning will make a determination on the water cycle project in early 2011. If approved, the Minister will also outline the conditions of approval.

The water cycle project will also be subject to approval under the Commonwealth legislation.

Construction will occur in parallel with the commencement of subdivision construction, which will be assessed separately by Queanbeyan City Council.

#### **Further information**

- › Please refer to the Integrated Water Cycle Project FAQ's at [www.googong.net/news.html](http://www.googong.net/news.html)
- › The complete environmental assessment can be downloaded for free via the NSW Department of Planning website. Click here: <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au> Click on the link "on exhibition" then "view projects currently on exhibition". The Googong water cycle project is in the lower third of the list.
- › The environmental assessment can also be viewed at several locations in Queanbeyan and Sydney – details are on the NSW Department of Planning website.
- › Should you wish to know more, or if you have a specific query, please contact Paul Keighley or Emily Moore on 02 9248 9800 or e-mail [cic@cicaustralia.com.au](mailto:cic@cicaustralia.com.au)