PROJECT UPDATE

Lower Molonglo Wastewater Quality Control Centre renewal

Our bioreactor project

December 2025

An aerial shot of LMWQCC's existing bioreactor process and the location of our new bioreactor.

Early next year, we'll move into the next stage of our renewal project when a surface miner arrives. This powerful machine will kick off the excavations for our new bioreactor.

What has been happening?

We've been laying the groundwork for construction of the new bioreactor. Recent and ongoing activities include:

- relocating existing utilities to create space for the new facility;
- carrying out bulk earthworks to prepare the construction site; and
- moving a large bypass pipe that will sit beneath the bioreactor.

Residents might have noticed more activity along Stockdill Drive, Drake-Brockman Drive and parts of Pro Hart Avenue as we have moved into a new phase of work.

Traffic levels will vary throughout the construction period. We'll continue to monitor traffic conditions closely and work to minimise any disruptions to residents and road users.

What's happening next?

Between January and February, a surface miner will arrive at Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre (LMWQCC). This major piece of equipment will begin excavation works for the new bioreactor.

We'll confirm the exact delivery date in January and share updates with the community through social media and our bioreactor webpage.

How might this delivery impact you?

Because of the surface miner's size, it is considered an oversized load. This means it needs to be delivered at night with approval from relevant regulatory authorities.

This delivery may cause a temporary disruption to traffic conditions. For our safety and yours, we advise road users to follow any relevant traffic signage or directions.

Keep an eye on iconwater.com.au/bioreactor which we will update in January with more details about this delivery and any potential impacts to the community.

What is a bioreactor?

A bioreactor is a specially designed tank where microorganisms break down pollutants in wastewater. It creates the right conditions for these organisms to thrive so they can consume substances that shouldn't enter the environment.

The bioreactor is a crucial part of Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre (LMWQCC), Canberra's primary wastewater treatment plant.

Why are we building a new one?

Canberra's growing, and LMWQCC needs to grow with it. But instead of simply replicating the existing infrastructure, we are taking this opportunity to innovate.

The new bioreactor will have more capacity than our existing infrastructure in a fraction of the space.

We are also utilising new membrane technology which introduces a physical barrier to the treatment process. The membrane filters solids and bacteria to treat wastewater.

In other words, we're preparing for the future by building smarter infrastructure.

What are our on-site work hours?

You can expect construction activity on site between 6:30am and 5:30pm, Monday to Friday. On Saturdays, work may occur from 6:30am to 4pm. Occasionally minor work may occur outside of these hours.

We will do our best to notify residents in advance of any major disruptions to traffic conditions during the construction period.

Happy Holidays

As the year comes to a close, we want to take a moment to thank you for being part of our journey.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year!

Snapshot of site preparation at LMWQCC.

Would you like to contact us?

We value your interest in our project and welcome your questions and feedback. If there's something you'd like to share or ask, please get in touch:

Email: talktous@iconwater.com.au
Call: (02) 6248 3111 (select option 3)

Interested in regular updates?

If you'd like to receive updates, please email letstalkwater.wastewater@iconwater.com.au and request to join the mailing list.

Thank you for your patience as we carry out this important work.

Want to find out more?

We will provide updates as the project progresses, but if you'd like to know more, use the QR code to visit our LMWQCC project page.

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