

Compressed Canberra

In the “Compressed Canberra” future, population growth has a modest impact on the characteristics of sewage production across the Capital region, whilst a changed policy and regulatory framework embodying higher collective environmental and social expectations from the community creates drivers for resource recovery and reuse.

The Capital region grows slowly to around 0.6 million through infill development and densification, with industrial customers remaining largely as they are today. There is sufficient treatment capacity at Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre (LMWQCC), with the capacity of branch and trunk sewers becoming constrained over time.

There is a smaller customer base to fund renewals and replacements, and there are some issues with the lack of available land to locate and access assets and pipes.

Climate change results in a moderate increase in wet weather events and drier conditions.

The Canberra water supply is secure, even with changes in government policy (e.g. Murray Darling Basin Plan) leading to less surface water available for urban use. Whilst Government policy enables consideration of all possible options (e.g. potable reuse and incineration are ‘on the table’), there is no water security driver for alternative water resources.

New and emerging contaminants are effectively regulated.

Customers and third parties adopt decentralised treatment, reuse and recovery systems where cost competitive (e.g. in areas with wastewater capacity constraints). Decentralised systems are also adopted as a result of customer environmental values.

A changed regulatory framework is characterised by stricter regulation of discharge licence standards, overflow standards and odour/air pollution standards, and introduction of a stringent carbon reduction target.

Under this scenario there are greater pressures for more advanced technology solutions and higher capital and operating costs for the utility, as well as reduced water demand and wastewater generation from customers.



Population
< 0.6 million



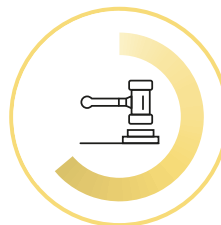
Population pattern
Infill/densification



Industrial growth
Existing industries remain



Climate change
Climate change results in a moderate increase in wet weather events and drier ground conditions



Regulation of discharges, overflows, odour
Stricter regulation



Energy/carbon regulation
Stringent carbon reduction target



Government policies on future options
Enables future potential options (e.g. incineration and potable reuse are on the table)



Canberra’s water security
Secure



Emerging contaminants
Emerge and are regulated



Adoption of decentralised systems by customers (treatment, reuse, recovery)
Some adoption by customers driven by environmental values