

17 August 2017  
Our Ref: 9CVI02724

The Referrals Gateway  
Department of Environment and Energy  
GPO Box 787  
**CANBERRA ACT 2601**

Dear Sir/Madam,

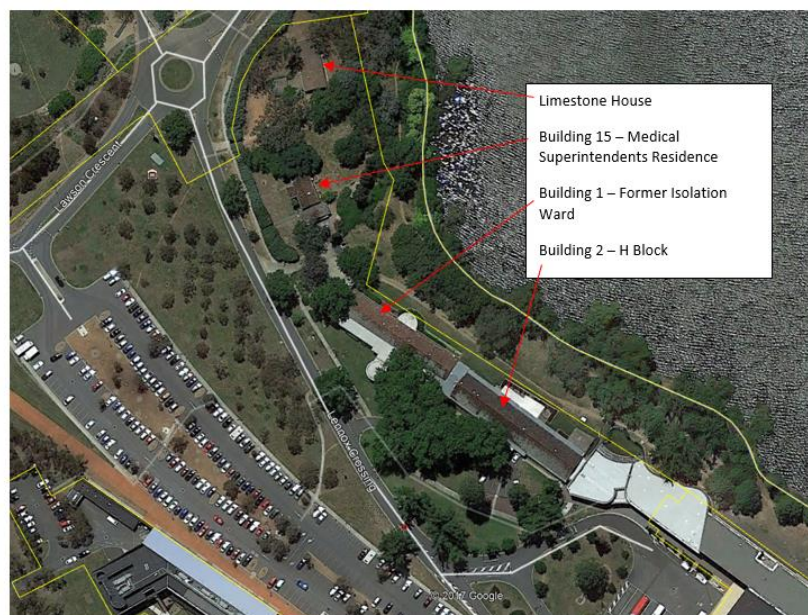
**Application for EPBC Referral for the Installation of Fibre Optic Cable at Lawson Crescent, Acton, described as Block 2 Section 55**

Universal Communications Group (UCG) has been engaged by **nbn™** to undertake the design and construction works for the installation of fibre optic cable to the three (3) properties located on Lawson Crescent/Crossing, Acton; described as Block 2, Section 55, as part of the National Broadband Network (NBN) rollout. The above property has been identified as having Heritage significance and therefore does not fall under the *Telecommunications Act 1997* and Low Impact Facilities Determination.

The purpose of the proposed installation of the fibre optic cable is ensure the continuity of telecommunication services and essential services are operational when the copper lines are decommissioned.

**Background**

The Commonwealth Heritage items are described as Building 15 (Former Medical Superintendents residence), Building 1 (Former isolation ward) and Building 2 (Former H block).



This area also falls under the 4.13 Acton Peninsula Precinct Code. The Acton Peninsula Precinct is bounded by Lake Burley Griffin to the east, south and west with the boundary to the ANU precinct forming the northern boundary west of Lawson Crescent.

ACT Heritage have advised that they do not maintain records for the National Museum area, as its designated land and owned by the Commonwealth and is therefore subject to the EPBC Act rather than the Heritage Act 2004.

### **Proposed Works**

It is proposed that fibre optic cable be installed within new and existing conduits within Block 2, Section 55 to three (3) properties located on Lennox Crossing.

Commencing from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (AIATSIS) carpark, cable will be hauled within existing conduit to Pit 2 located outside Building 1.

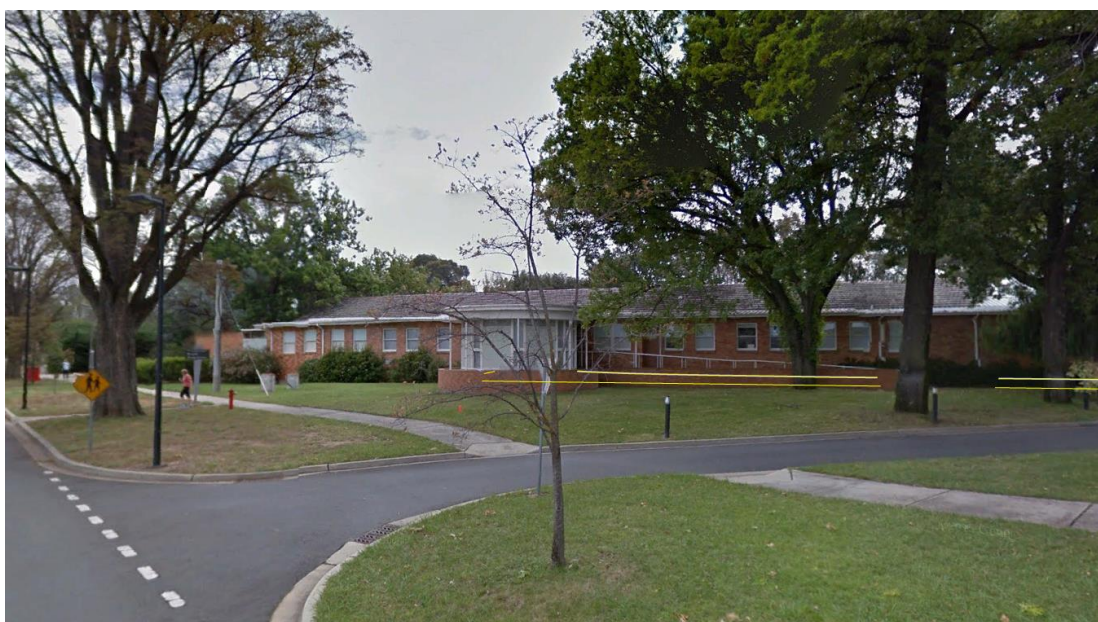
From Pit 2, installation of a second pit is proposed for the continuation of cable to the building where a Premise Connection Device (PCD) is proposed to be installed on the outside of the building.

From Pit 2, cable will continue to be hauled within the existing duct to the manhole within the road corridor. From this manhole, new conduit is proposed to be installed to Building 2. A PCD is intended to be installed externally and penetration is proposed for the internal connection of three (3) Network Termination Enclosures (NTEs) and two (2) General Power Outlets (GPOs).

From the manhole, 60m of new conduit is proposed to be installed to Building 3. A PCD is proposed to be installed on the outside wall and penetration is proposed for the connection of three (3) NTEs and two (2) GPOs.

Existing pits and conduits will be utilised to install the fibre optic cable within the road corridor. Where no previous conduit exists, it is proposed that colour matched plastic conduit will be used and installed parallel to existing ducts and conduits, so as not to detract from the aesthetics of the buildings both internally and externally. Construction plans for the installation are attached as **Appendix 1**.

Please refer to the impact assessment below for a more detailed explanation of proposed works.



**Street View - Building 2 (Former H Block)**

## Heritage Significance

The heritage significance of these three sites was assessed on the 16 August 2017 and listed for the following reasons using the Australian Heritage Database Significance Criteria:

**Table 1: Statement of Heritage Significance**

<b>Site 1 – Building 15 (Former Medical Superintendents Residence) Place ID: 105342</b>	
<b>Significance Criteria</b>	<b>Attributes</b>
Criterion A - Processes - The Medical Superintendents Residence (Building 15) is a significant component of a group of extant buildings of the former Royal Canberra Hospital complex that operated for the benefit of the Canberra community over a period of five decades. The hospital group was constructed during the 1940s on the former Acton property that was resumed by the Commonwealth Government in 1911 and became the first major site of Federal Capital occupancy, fulfilling a component of Walter Burley Griffin's plan for a Hospital at Acton. The former Medical Superintendent's Residence was used as such until the hospital was moved to its new location in 1996. It provides evidence of the twentieth century approach to the operation of hospital complexes, where senior management lived within the hospital precinct.	The whole of the Medical Superintendent's Residence and its setting.
Criterion D - Characteristic Values - The Medical Superintendent's House is a significant example of the Interwar Functionalist style with major features of projecting concrete roofs and corner windows.	The building's Interwar Functionalist style, including projecting concrete roofs and corner windows.
Criterion G – Social Values - The former hospital group buildings have social importance to the Canberra community who had great attachment to the hospital and strongly petitioned against its closure.	The whole of the Medical Superintendent's Residence and its setting.
Criterion H - Significant People - The building is significant because it has links with the community of medical superintendents who worked Canberra Hospital, being the residence of nine medical superintendents or acting superintendents from 1941 until 1996. It has an association with the Canberra planner, Walter Burley Griffin, who designated Acton Peninsula for hospital use and its designer, the architect Leighton Irwin.	The whole building, its original architectural values, plus its location.
<b>Site 2 - Building 1 (Former Isolation Ward) Place ID: 105341</b>	
<b>Significance Criteria</b>	<b>Attributes</b>
Criterion A - Processes - The single storey brick former Isolation Ward (Building 1), is a significant component of a group of extant buildings of the former Royal Canberra Hospital complex that operated for the benefit of the Canberra community over a period of five decades. The hospital group, consisting of the Isolation Block, H Block and Medical Superintendent's Residence, was constructed during the 1940s on the former Acton property that was resumed by the Commonwealth Government in 1911. The area became the first major site of Federal Capital occupancy, fulfilling a component of Walter Burley Griffin's plan for a Hospital at Acton. The former Isolation Ward (Building 1) as part of the hospital group, is a major representative feature of hospital history at Acton Peninsula, provides physical evidence of the mid-twentieth century approaches to the treatment of infectious diseases. The building has importance for its association with World War Two medical care and for its use as a hospice during the 1990s.	The whole building and its setting.

Criterion D – Characteristic Values - The building is an example of the Interwar Functionalist style and retains significance in its external original fabric, timber framed windows on the south side, the tiles to sill on northern veranda windows, the infill section to H Block, the infill section to the southwest corner and the veranda form along the north side of the building.	The building's Interwar Functionalist styling as demonstrated in the features noted above.
Criterion G - Social Value - The former hospital group buildings have social importance to the Canberra community who had great attachment to the hospital and strongly petitioned against its closure.	The whole building and its setting.
Criterion H - Significant People - The building is significant because of its association with people such as Walter Burley Griffin, who designated Acton Peninsula for hospital use and hospital staff who had a longevity of association with the hospital such as Matron, Sylvia Curley.	The building and its location on Acton Peninsula.
<b>Site 3 - Building 2 (Former H Block) Place ID: 105343</b>	
<b>Significance Criteria</b>	<b>Attributes</b>
Criterion A – Processes - The single storey brick and tiled roof H Block (Building 2), is a significant component of a group of extant buildings of the former Royal Canberra Hospital complex that operated for the benefit of the Canberra community over a period of five decades. The hospital group, consisting of the Isolation Block, H Block and Medical Superintendent's Residence, was constructed during the 1940s on the former Acton property that was resumed by the Commonwealth Government in 1911. The area became the first major site of Federal Capital occupancy, fulfilling a component of Walter Burley Griffin's plan for a Hospital at Acton. H Block, as part of hospital group, as a major feature of hospital group provides physical evidence of the mid-twentieth century approaches to the treatment of infectious diseases. The building has importance for its association with World War Two medical care and for its use as a hospice during the 1990s.	The whole of H Block and its setting.
Criterion D - Characteristic Values - The building is an example of the Interwar Functionalist style and retains significance in its external original fabric, fluted pattern glass, early additions to the north side, the infill section to the Isolation Block, the timber panelled infill section to the south.	The building's Interwar Functionalist style as evident in the features noted above.
Criterion G - Social Value - The building is an example of the Interwar Functionalist style and retains significance in its external original fabric, fluted pattern glass, early additions to the north side, the infill section to the Isolation Block, the timber panelled infill section to the south.	The building and its setting.
Criterion H - Significant People - The building is significant because of its association with people such as Walter Burley Griffin, who designated Acton Peninsula for hospital use, Leighton Irwin, the designer of the building, and hospital staff who had a longevity of association with the hospital such as Matron, Sylvia Curley.	The building and its setting.





**Building 1 – Isolation Ward**

In addition to the assessment against the above criteria, condition and integrity is also assessed to determine the heritage significance of these items.

Building 1 (Former Isolation Ward) and Building 2 (Former H Block) notes that these buildings are in good condition (1997), but showing some signs of weathering and minor cracking. It is well built. The original interior cannot be recognised but the hospice phase is in good condition (Feb 2003). In April 2003, it is noted that these buildings are empty and shows signs of exterior weathering. In relation to Building 15 (Former Medical Superintendents Residence), the condition and integrity is noted as being sound.

### **Building Descriptions**

Building 1 (Former Isolation Ward) (noted on the construction plan as Building 2) - The former Isolation Block, along with the former H Block and the former Medical Superintendents House and their setting are an integrated group of former 1940s hospital buildings. Built in 1944 - 7, it is a simple, single storey load bearing brick building of the inter-war Functionalist style with a gable roof. It has a north facing solarium and central radial sitting room. The south side has timber double hung windows. The north side has sliding aluminium glazed doors to individual rooms which open onto a long veranda. The veranda has original timber frames into which have been inserted aluminium framed double hung windows. The roof has Marseilles terracotta tiles. The building has been modified with additions to the southern entrance side by construction of a chapel and to the west end by construction of a service entry has been modified by additions to the southern entrance side. It was designed by the Commonwealth Department of Works for the Department of the Interior. It is joined to H Block and was modified and fitted out internally for use as a hospice. This building, along with other original 1943 Canberra Community Hospital buildings, is still highly valued by sections of the community.

Building 2 (Former H Block) (noted on the construction plan as Building 1) - The former H Block, along with the former Isolation Block and the former Medical Superintendents House and their setting are an integrated group of former 1940s hospital buildings. Built in 1943, Building 2, H Block, Royal Canberra Hospital, is single storey brick building, with tiled roof. It has been modified by veranda additions to the north (West Basin) side and by alterations to the entrance on the south side. It was designed in the inter-war Functionalist style by the Commonwealth Department of Works for the Department of the Interior. The surviving steel framed windows at the entrance appear to have original fluted pattern transparent glass. A metal deck veranda with pipe columns is on the north side, facing the lake. The building was modified and fitted out internally for use as a hospice. This building, along with other original 1943 Canberra Community Hospital buildings, is still highly valued by sections of the community

Building 15 (Former Medical Superintendents Residence) (noted on the construction plan as Building 3) - The residence along with the former Isolation Block, the former H Block and their setting forms an integrated group of former 1940s hospital buildings to the north of the building is the Limestone Outcrop, a remaining exposed outcrop of the former Limestone Plains area.

The building is a two-storied brick residence of inter-war Functionalist style, with tiled roof and associated outbuildings. The building was constructed as the Medical Superintendent's Residence. The residence has secluded gardens enclosed behind high tapestry cypress hedges created by using CUPRESSUS ARIZONICA and C. MACROCARPA, areas of which have been removed. There are a number of eucalypts and a variety of evergreen and deciduous trees and some shrubs. The curving gravel driveway is flanked by evergreen shrubs. Three of the trees which have been identified as being significant, a Turkey oak, an English oak and an English elm are located in the residence gardens.

In 2003 the former Canberra hospital buildings remaining at the Acton site consisted of the former Isolation Block, H Block, the Medical Superintendents Cottage and Limestone House. These buildings were all constructed during the 1940s. They are adjacent to the Limestone outcrop and along with their setting of planted trees now remain as a distinctive former Canberra hospital precinct.

### Impact Assessment

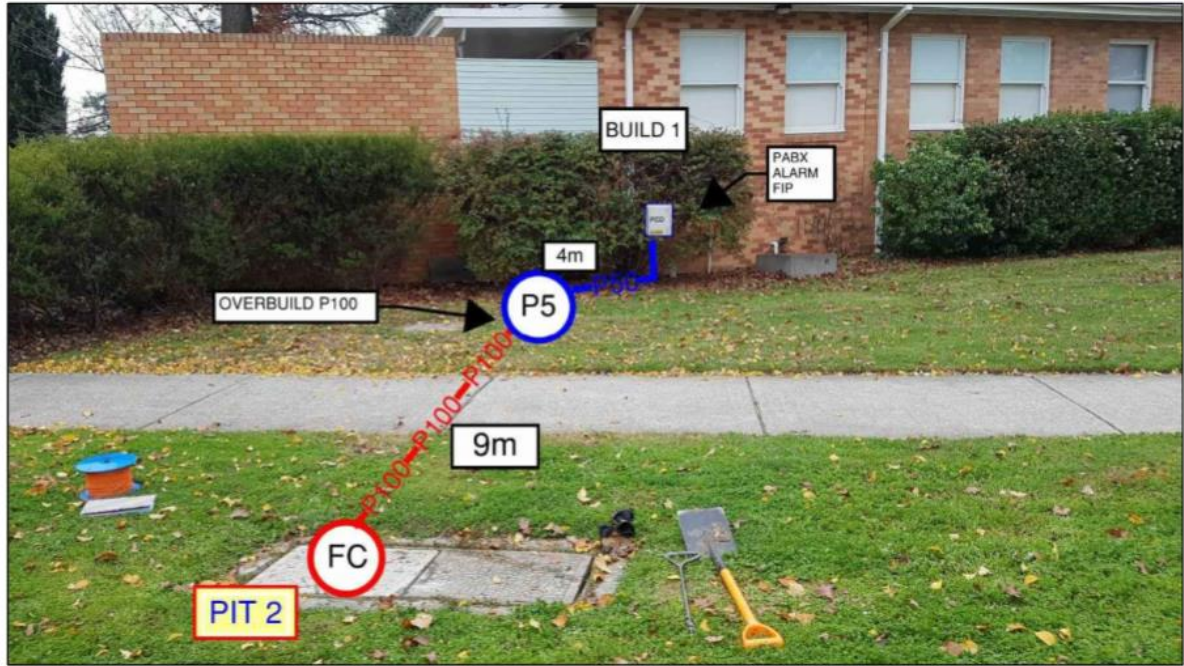
As noted above, it is proposed that fibre optic cable and associated infrastructure be installed at three (sites) located on Lennox Crossing, Acton as part of the **nbn™** rollout. The installation and construction will take place within the surrounding landscape and Commonwealth Heritage buildings.

Commencing from an existing manhole in the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (AIATSIS) carpark, 90m of 1x12 Fibre will be hauled within the existing underground P100 conduit, which traverses the parklands and Lennox Crossing to Pit 2 located outside Building 1 (see Appendix 1, Photos 01 and 02);



From the existing Pit 2, 3 x1 Fibre will be hauled 9m in the existing duct to proposed new pit (Pit 4). From the new Pit 4, trenching is proposed to the building for the installation of 4m of 3x1 Fibre where a Premise Connection Device (PCD) is proposed to be installed on the external wall (see Appendix 1, Photos 03, 04 and 07);





Existing lead in conduit to building, existing duct is blocked and exit point unknown



Survey Photo

From the existing Pit 2, 70m of 1x12 Fibre and 3x1 Fibre will be hauled within the existing P100 conduit along the road corridor to an existing manhole (see Appendix 1, Photos 05);



Survey Photo

From the existing manhole, 45m of trenching is proposed within the existing alignment for the installation of new P50 conduit to Building 2 where a PCD is to be placed on the external wall, behind the wooden screen and adjacent to the existing air conditioning unit (directional boring is proposed beneath concrete footpaths). A penetration into the building is also proposed for the continuation of cable internally where three (3) Network Termination Enclosures (NTEs) and two (2) General Power Outlets (GPOs) are also required (See Appendix 1, Photos 09, 10, 11 and 12);

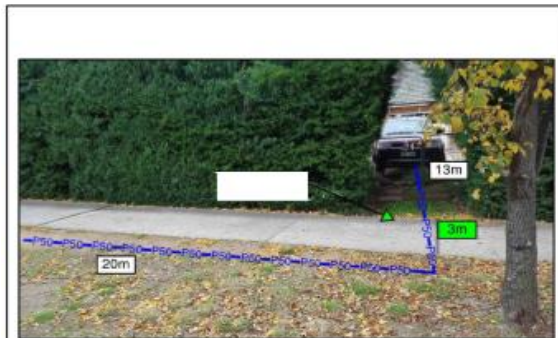


PHOTO 9

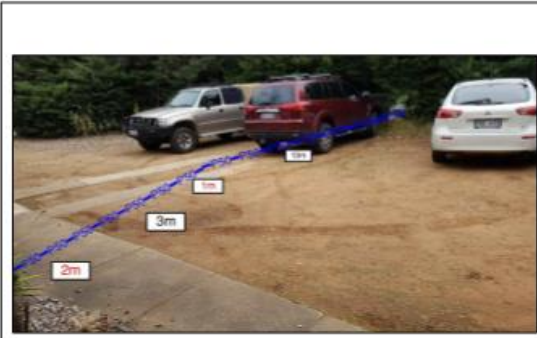


PHOTO 10



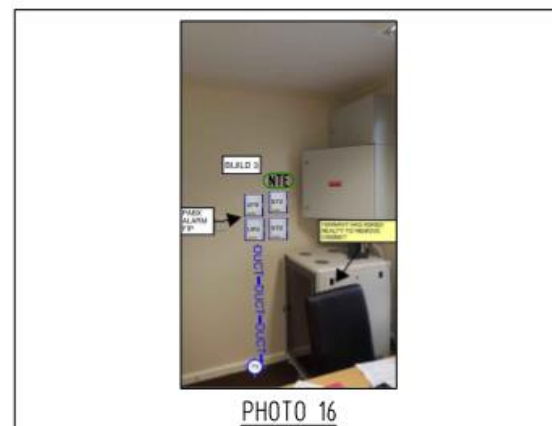
PHOTO 11



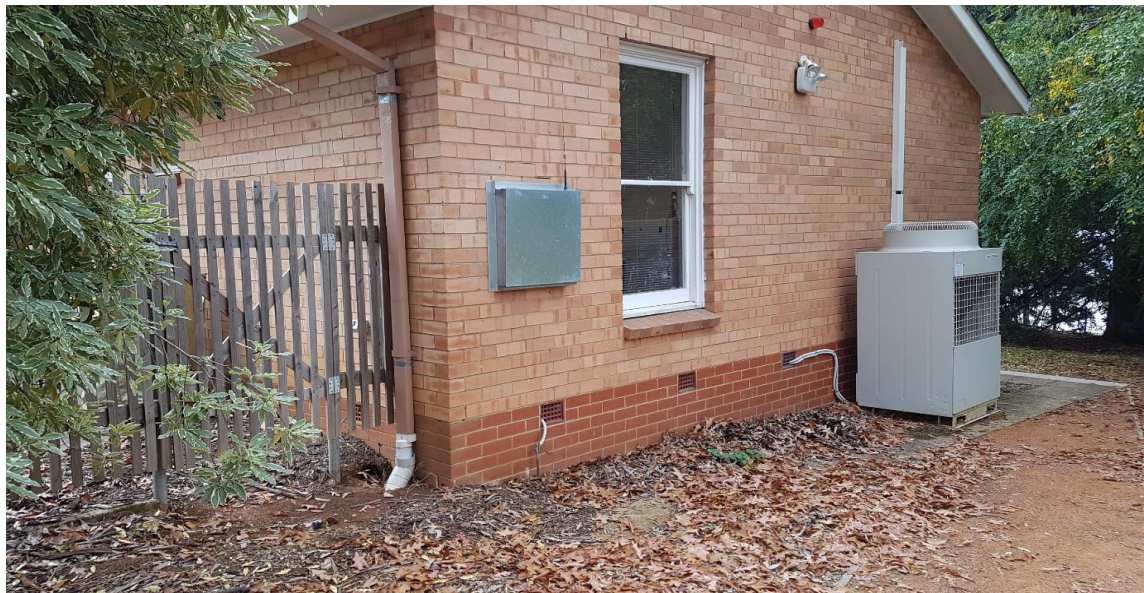
PHOTO 12

60m trenching is proposed for the installation of 3x1 Fibre to be installed from the existing manhole on Lennox Crossing to Building 3 (directional boring is proposed beneath concrete footpaths and driveway). A PCD is proposed to be placed externally and penetration is required for the continuation of fibre. Internally, 4m of catenary wire will be placed within the crawl space for the connection of three (3) NTEs and two (2) GPOs (see Attachment 1, Photos 13, 14, 15 and 16).





Existing infrastructure and conduit already located on the eternal wall



As noted in the significance assessment above, the overall condition and integrity of these properties is considered to be in good condition. The installation methods have taken into consideration the heritage fabric and significance of this area as well as the surrounding landscaping. All civil works (trenching and boring) are proposed in cleared areas within the existing telecommunications alignments, areas outside this alignment the design ensures that no impact is made to the surrounding landscape including pathways, driveways, vegetation and tree drip lines.

The design has also taken into account the placement of proposed infrastructure externally and internally, existing conduit routes and penetration points have been followed as well as ensuring that all proposed infrastructure is located in areas that already contain existing infrastructure and placed in locations that would not detract from the aesthetics of the buildings.

In light of the above-mentioned, UCG seeks the Departments advice to determine whether our proposed action will require formal assessment and approval under *the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Should you require any further information or clarification please do not hesitate to contact me on 07 3088 2735 or [Julie.williams@ucg.com.au](mailto:Julie.williams@ucg.com.au)

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Williams', with a stylized, flowing script.

Julie Williams  
Land Access Manager  
Universal Communications Group

# Appendix 1

Lawson Crescent, Acton - Construction Plan Rev A