

**Yvette Berry MLA**

Deputy Chief Minister
Minister for Early Childhood Development
Minister for Education and Youth Affairs
Minister for Housing and Suburban Development
Minister for Women
Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence
Minister for Sport and Recreation

Member for Ginninderra

Mr Tom Duncan
Clerk
ACT Legislative Assembly
Tom.Duncan@parliament.act.gov.au

Our ref: CMTEDD2022/339

Dear Mr Duncan

Tom

Thank you for your letter of 30 November 2021 relating to the petitions (42-21 and 47-21) lodged by Ms Giulia Jones MLA requesting *'the Government to:*

- *provide a grant to fix the Phillip Pool and assist in ensuring this occurs; and*
- *keep the Phillip Pool open until it, or another outdoor pool, is available and open for the people of Woden for the long term'.*

Following a formal request from the lessee of the Phillip Swimming and Ice Skating Centre (PSISC), the planning and land authority agreed to provide temporary relief to lessee from the requirement to open the pool facilities for the 2021-22 summer season, up to 30 March 2022.

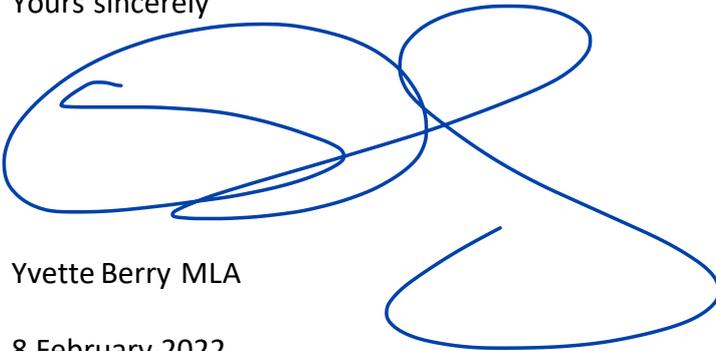
The commercial prospects, operation and future of the PSISC, inclusive of the pool facilities, is a matter for the owner of that property, noting the lessee has had use, occupation and benefit of the property for over 40 years. As a result, I can advise the ACT Government does not support the petition request to provide a grant to the PSISC lessee to *"fix the Phillip Pool and assist in ensuring this occurs"*. Furthermore, in accordance with existing lease provisions for the PSISC site, the ACT Government will expect the pool facilities will reopen and be available for public use for the 2022-23 summer and beyond.



While the closure of the swimming pool at PSISC for the 2021-22 summer season is unfortunate, the ACT is well catered for when it comes to the provision of public and private aquatic facilities. There are a number of government aquatic facilities located within a 10-kilometre radius of the Woden Town Centre including Stromlo Leisure Centre, Manuka Pool, Canberra Olympic Pool (in the city), Lakeside Leisure Centre (Greenway) and Active Leisure Centre (Wanniassa). There are also several private aquatic facilities located in Woden and the surrounding area that offer a range of services to the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and curves, positioned to the right of the text 'Yours sincerely'.

Yvette Berry MLA

8 February 2022