



Chris Steel MLA

Minister for Transport and City Services

Minister for Skills

Special Minister of State

Member for Murrumbidgee

Mr Tom Duncan

Clerk

ACT Legislative Assembly

London Circuit

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter of 3 May 2022 regarding petitions 2-22 and 14-22, lodged by Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA. The petitions seek a citizen-led upgrade of Braddon Park, Lowanna Street in Braddon.

The ACT Government continues to invest in new and upgraded facilities across the Canberra region through our record program of suburban infrastructure upgrades. We have a strong track record of listening to the community as we deliver these upgrades, which include new and improved play spaces, sporting facilities, footpaths, seating, lighting and other important suburban infrastructure.

All requests for improvements to Canberra parks and play spaces are assessed and prioritised annually. Play spaces are considered for future improvements taking account of factors such as demand, demographics, equity, sustainability, co-location and availability of funding. This process ensures that investments in public spaces are suitably targeted and meet the needs of all Canberrans.

In May 2022, the ACT Government released the ACT Play Space Strategy following community engagement and consultation. The Strategy provides a clear vision, supported by key principles, objectives and actions to guide the future planning, delivery and management of play spaces in the ACT. It seeks to ensure an equitable, inclusive, diverse and engaging mix of play opportunities across Canberra, to ensure all residents have equitable access to a mix of district, central and local neighbourhood playgrounds.

There are currently no plans to upgrade Braddon Park, Lowanna Street. However, should future upgrades be considered, consultation will be undertaken to ensure community needs and priorities are identified and incorporated.

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This area of the inner north is well served by an existing network of green spaces. Haig Park, the Angas Street playground, Sullivans Creek green space and Corroboree Park are all within one kilometre walking distance from Lowanna Street. Corroboree Park, in particular, provides a range of recreational facilities including a basketball court, BBQs and playground. Further afield, the Hope Street playground in Dickson has recently benefited from significant investment and offers new playground facilities flat paths and seating.

The petitioners may also be interested to know that through the 2022-23 ACT Budget the Government will deliver on its election commitment to build a destination play space in the Inner North, catering for a range of age groups. The play space will be co-located with the Academy of Interactive Entertainment (AIE) campus in Watson.

The ACT Government provides the Canberra community the opportunity to garner support for citizen led projects within their locale through a number of grants processes. Grants provided through the 'Adopt-A-Park Community Grants' <https://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/public-land/maintenance/volunteering> and 'Nature in the Cities Grant' <https://www.environment.act.gov.au/act-nrm/grants-and-support-packages/act-environment-grants> may allow the petitioners to address some of the issues identified within their petition.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Chris Steel MLA
Minister for Transport and City Services
28 July 2022