



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 dated 2 June 2021 regarding petition 18-21, lodged by Dr Marisa Paterson MLA. The petition has requested for improvements to the footpath along Ballarat Street in Fisher, as such, my response to the petition is detailed below.

The ACT Government recognises the importance of improving community paths and cycling facilities to provide safe and attractive routes in the ACT for people to use. The Government is working to better connect existing path networks and create new connections considering demand and community interests. The suburb of Fisher was built in the era when there was less allowance for walking and cycling. Roads classified as minor collectors or access roads usually did not have separate walking or cycling facilities.

Currently, ACT Government encourages Active Travel and promotes walking and cycling as preferred mode of transport wherever possible. Roads such as Ballarat Street accommodates all modes of transport and is shared with all users equally. In addition to this, to appreciate the presence of pedestrians and cyclists, the speed limit has been reduced to 50k/hr.

ACT Government is working towards improving walking and cycling network and providing infrastructure that accommodates and promotes active living. As constituents may appreciate, this is a significant undertaking that needs to be approached strategically including assessing and prioritising requests.

All requests received by the community are assessed based on firstly whether a safe path can be provided for all path users and then prioritised based of factors including demand and proximity to

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community infrastructure like schools, shops and public transport. The list of community path requests is dynamic as new requests are received, assessed and added to the priority program.

Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) receives many requests for community path missing links each year, and priority is given to sites that satisfy the above criteria, in addition to inclusion to the strategic path network for the whole district. A link to the strategic path network can be accessed through <https://activeinfrastructure.net.au/>. This tool assists ACT Government in identifying and prioritising interventions in the Active Travel Network.

An assessment of the proposed path has been conducted by TCCS and the overall analysis has found that the works are not an immediate priority. However, as mentioned, the community path priority list is dynamic as new requests are received and works are completed. As such, the proposed path will be reconsidered as part of the annual review process and subject to relative priorities across the ACT may be included as part of a future capital works program.

I trust the information provided above has been helpful.

Yours sincerely



Chris Steel MLA
Minister for Transport and City Services
30 August 2021