



Minister for City Services
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Recycling and Waste Reduction
Minister for Roads and Active Travel
Minister for Tertiary Education
Minister for Transport
Member for Murrumbidgee

Mr Tom Duncan
Clerk
ACT Legislative Assembly

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letters of 20 and 27 August 2020 regarding the following petitions:

- 16-20 and 17-20 lodged by Miss C Burch MLA regarding dog parks in Kingston and Campbell.
- Petitions 19-20 and 20-20 lodged by Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA requesting a pedestrian crossing on Windeyer Street and parking at the Watson Shops.
- Petitions 11-20 lodged by Miss C Burch MLA regarding the Turner bus layover and 18-20 lodged by Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA regarding the Fraser West Bus Terminus.
- Petition 23-20 lodged by Ms Caroline Le Couteur MLA regarding the proposed closure of the West Belconnen Waste Facility.

In response to Petitions 16-20 and 17-20

The ACT Government appreciates that dog owners are a substantial section of park users and pets are recognised for their physical and mental health benefits. The demand for and usage of dog parks is being monitored to inform the future direction in the planning and provision of future facilities.

The seven fenced dog parks across Canberra are intended to serve large catchment areas and complement other dog exercise areas such as designated on leash and off leash areas and are strategically located and are well utilised by dogs and their owners.

An interactive map of dog-friendly exercise areas can be accessed through the Domestic Animals map located at <http://actmapi.act.gov.au> and further information regarding these areas can be found at www.tccs.act.gov.au/city-living/pets/dogs/recreation-with-my-dog.

In response to Petitions 19-20 and 20-20

I have asked Roads ACT to examine the traffic volume and speed on Windeyer Road and if appropriate look at the possibility of converting the existing pedestrian crossing into a pair of zebra crossings.

Investigations will be undertaken in October as to whether a zebra crossing is feasible for implementation. If feasible the installation of a crossing will be included in the Minor New Works program for delivery by 30 June 2021.

ACT Legislative Assembly

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In relation to Disability Parking at Watson Shops, TCCS will investigate the request for disabled this request and consult the affected businesses about the provision of an additional disabled parking space adjacent to the existing disability parking space at the Watson shops.

In response to Petition 11-20

The Turner Bus Layover project has been under consideration by the ACT Government for many years and to ensure the best project outcomes for the community, extensive consultation has been undertaken. Consultation commenced in 2012 on the bus layover and interchange feasibility study, in 2013 a public exhibition was held and in 2014 consultation was undertaken on the draft variation to the Territory Plan. I am advised that in April 2020 another letter box drop was undertaken in the area to provide residents and local businesses with more details on the works, including hours and changed traffic arrangements.

While the ACT Government understands concerns about the development of a new bus layover, investment in essential public transport is necessary for our growing city. The new facility, which replaces an existing dirt car park on the site, will help Transport Canberra to run services efficiently, meaning that more bus services can be provided for our community, including Turner residents.

The petitioners note that Canberra is one of the most liveable cities in the world. Ongoing investment in our public transport system to provide more bus and light rail services is a key element of the Government's strategy to ensure that Canberra remains an easy and pleasant place to live. Without investment in our public transport network – whether that is through growing our bus fleet and expanding the light rail network to the southside or through smaller projects, such as the Turner Bus Layover – our city will not be as liveable in the future.

Given the importance of this and the extensive community consultation undertaken since 2012, the Government has no plans to delay construction of the Turner bus layover to undertake further consultation.

In response to Petition 18-20

While I appreciate residents' ongoing concerns about Transport Canberra's Fraser West Terminus, it is not feasible to stop using the terminus at this time, as it is an essential facility for operating bus services in Belconnen. However, I am advised that Transport Canberra is seeking to identify an additional site for a bus layover in the area, which may allow for a reduction in the number of buses using the Fraser West Terminus in the future.

To address immediate concerns raised by residents, Transport Canberra has:

- reduced the number of buses using the terminus as part of improvements to bus services across Canberra introduced in July 2020. This included a reduction in the number of local bus services starting or ending at the Terminus in peak times, as well as late at night;
- directed bus drivers not to idle buses for longer than five minutes at this location; and
- is making improvements to the terminus to help reduce noise for residents, including changes to landscaping.

I am advised that Transport Canberra has also recently consulted with residents in the area in relation to this issue and have updated the development plans to reflect community comments.

In response to Petition 23-20

The West Belconnen Resource Management Centre (WBRMC) is situated on Block 1586 which lies in the centre of the Ginninderry development, a major land development and release program.

As part of the Ginninderry development this site needs to be closed to undergo rehabilitation and handover to Ginninderry Joint Venture (GJV) for further development of the site into open public space with parkland, sportsgrounds and other suitable features. Landfilling operations for public disposals at the WBRMC ceased on 2 September 2020 to allow rehabilitation and closure of the site.

The rehabilitation of ACT landfills is a mandatory requirement under the *Environmental Protection Act 1997* and a strategic commitment of the ACT Government. Currently investigations are being carried out on landfill gas, soil and groundwater conditions that forms the basis of a human health risk assessment. This will inform rehabilitation requirements for the site and what future activities can be undertaken on and surrounding the rehabilitated site. Rehabilitation, capping and ancillary works will be undertaken later in 2020. Subsequently, once the rehabilitation works are complete, and Environmental Protection Authority approval is granted, the site will be handed over to the GJV.

The Canberra Sand and Gravel green waste drop-off facility will continue to operate until mid-2021, however, the licence for the CSG facility will cease on 30 June 2021 to facilitate site remediation and handover to GJV. A longer-term solution for the acceptance of green waste for Belconnen and North Canberra is being investigated as part of Waste Infrastructure Planning. An option of accepting green waste at the Mitchell Resource Management Centre or a new alternate site in North or North/West Canberra is part of these investigations and the community will be kept up to date.

Public waste drop off ceased at WBRMC in 2002. The public can drop off waste at the waste transfer stations located at Mitchell and Mugga Lane Resource Management Centres. Alternative options for the disposal of green waste is highlighted below;

- All households in Belconnen can apply for a Green Bin as part of the Green Bins collection service.
- Garden waste can be disposed of at Corkhill Bros. located at the Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre (MLRMC) free-of-charge for members of the public.
- Residents are also able to dispose of green waste at CSG in Vicars Street, Mitchell (fees apply) or at Weilwun Landscape Supplies on Morisset Road, Mitchell (fees apply).

Alternative locations for Recycling Drop off Centres include the facility located at Jolly Street within Belconnen. Others are at O'Brien Place, Gungahlin, Baillieu Court, Mitchell, Botany Street, Phillip and Scollay Street, Tuggeranong.

Work is underway to develop a 30 year Strategic Waste Infrastructure Plan, with a five year focus, that presents a clear and compelling outline of the ACT's waste infrastructure requirements to enable an effective transition to a more circular model of resource use and cater for the growing community. Ensuring the continuity of services to the community is a priority of the ACT Government.

I trust that the above information responds to the petitions noted.

Yours sincerely



Chris Steel MLA
Minister for City Services
Minister for Recycling and Waste Reduction
Minister for Transport

10 September 2020