



## Chris Steel MLA

Minister for Transport and City Services

Minister for Skills

Special Minister of State

Member for Murrumbidgee

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Mr Tom Duncan  
Clerk  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
London Circuit  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letters dated 20 and 23 April 2021 regarding petitions 5-21 and 14-21 respectively, lodged by Mr Michael Pettersson MLA. Both petitions have requested improvements to the Yerrabi Pond recreation area, as such, my combined response to the petitions is detailed below.

In relation to the request for more facilities and upgrades to the playground, Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) recently sought community feedback, via a survey on the ACT Government's YourSay website, on how people use the Yerrabi Pond recreation areas and suggested improvements. Consultation commenced on 23 April 2021 and closed on 4 June 2021. Pop-up sessions at Yerrabi Pond were held on 1, 6 and 11 May 2021 to provide additional opportunities for people to give feedback and talk to TCCS staff.

Over 1,000 survey responses or other feedback was received. Results of the survey will be published on the YourSay page in July 2021 after the results have been analysed.

Feedback, including the matters raised in the petitions, will be used to inform relative priorities and future improvements at the Yerrabi Pond recreation area. The Government has provided \$300,000 to enable implementation of on-ground improvements.

Noting the request for support to establish a Friends of Yerrabi Pond group, I can advise that, on 7 May 2021, TCCS staff met with the principal petitioner for petition 5-21, John Beagle, and other community members, to discuss the process for establishing a Friends of Yerrabi Pond group and the roles and responsibilities of volunteers. Discussions between TCCS officers and community members are also well underway to inform enhanced maintenance activities. To date, a number of additional

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activities have been undertaken including remediating water flows that were impacting on shared paths, repair of bollards, upgrades to garden beds and replacement of playground softfall.

In relation to maintenance of the area around Yerrabi Pond recreation area, regular maintenance of the Yerrabi Pond recreation area includes mowing, cleaning, pest and weed management, pruning, servicing of bins, repairs to assets such as furniture and play equipment and graffiti management. Maintenance of the pond is undertaken four times a year and includes litter-picking and removal of debris. The Conservator of Flora and Fauna has advised that a vegetative buffer should be provided on the fringes of ponds to protect and enhance habitat and water quality. Ongoing concerns about maintenance can be reported to Fix My Street at [www.act.gov.au/fixmystreet](http://www.act.gov.au/fixmystreet) or Access Canberra on 13 22 81 for appropriate actioning.

There are currently no plans to install additional pedestrian or dog related signage, noting that signage alone is often ineffective in influencing behaviour and the Government has a range of education and awareness activities to inform the community about responsible pet ownership, however the Government will continue to undertake educative activities in the area.

I trust the information provided above has been helpful.

Yours sincerely



Chris Steel MLA  
Minister for Transport and City Services  
29 June 2021