



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 8 October 2021 regarding petition 41-21, lodged by Mrs Giulia Jones MLA. The petition seeks upgrades at Lyons Shops.

The ACT Government, through Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) is responsible for the management of public space across the ACT. This often includes the public realm that supports local shopping centres.

In general, shopping precinct upgrade projects consider the need for a variety of supporting infrastructure – such as play spaces, toilet facilities and seating – through the feasibility and design planning stages. Subsequent upgrades to support shopping precincts and recreational areas across Canberra focus on improving safety and access, providing improved landscaping and other facilities that encourage people to spend more time enjoying these public spaces.

Shopping precinct upgrade projects are assessed and prioritised based on factors like amenity, function, pedestrian lighting, public safety, parking needs, quality of street furniture and landscaping at each local centre across the ACT.

The Lyons Shopping Village has been upgraded within the last 10 years. The ACT Government has also recently completed active travel improvements in Lyons leading to and from Lyons Shops, which improve access for local residents while also strengthening connections between Weston and Woden.

I am pleased to advise that as part of the 2021-22 ACT Budget, funding was committed to an upgraded playground in Lyons, to be progressed in consultation with the community. This project will also consider supporting infrastructure such as seating. I note the petitioners' request for a playground to be installed

ACT Legislative Assembly London Circuit, GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601



+61 2 6205 1470



steel@act.gov.au



@ChrisSteelMLA



chrissteellabor



chrissteelmla

adjacent to the shops. TCCS will undertake community consultation on this project which will consider the location within Lyons.

While there are some examples across the ACT where bike tracks have been co-located with playgrounds, another option may be for community members to submit a proposal to develop or formalise a community-built bike track on another piece of public land managed by TCCS. Community members may contact TCCS via email to explore the options, at: TCCS.BumpsandBerms@act.gov.au.

The ACT Government provides public toilets in high-use areas such as town and district parks, large shopping centre precincts and sportsgrounds where private facilities are not available. These sites serve a broad catchment area and support visitation for longer periods. At this stage, there are no immediate plans to construct new ACT Government public toilet facilities at Lyons Shops. The request for a new toilet facility through this petition has been noted by TCCS for future consideration amongst other competing priorities when planning for the replacement and upgrade of existing toilet facilities.

In relation to informal use ovals, during the 1990s a number of ovals across the ACT were converted to dryland (non-irrigated), reflecting their low usage levels at the time. Unlike sportsgrounds, informal use ovals or low maintenance ovals are not irrigated and so are not suitable for organised, formal sporting use. While they also do not have facilities such as pavilions, toilets, change rooms and canteen facilities, these ovals are a great space for informal recreation by the local community.

Informal use ovals are mown on the same cycle as other suburban open space mowing – around six times per year depending on the season. Surfaces are also inspected periodically to ensure they are in a safe condition. The appearance of informal use ovals is dependent on rainfall. Like other non-irrigated open space areas, they will appear green during periods of strong rainfall but will brown off in drier weather. The Woden Valley is serviced by a large number of irrigated sportsgrounds and there are no plans to alter the maintenance regime at Lyons dryland oval or reinstate irrigation.

Installing street art on public assets such as bus stops is undertaken through the TCCS street art program. The petitioners' request has been noted and proponents are encouraged to make a request via the Fix My Street portal to enable TCCS to include this planning for future street art installations, as artist/community interest and funding allows.

More broadly, the ACT Government is currently undertaking significant public investments in the area surrounding Lyons. Project examples include building light rail to Woden, the Woden Public Transport Interchange, the CIT Campus Woden and a major upgrade of Phillip Enclosed Oval. These projects will stimulate long-term economic growth in the area and deliver great new facilities for all residents of the Woden Valley.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Chris Steel MLA
Minister for Transport and City Services
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