



## 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 letter of 9 November 2021 regarding petition 15-21, lodged by Ms Jo Clay MLA. The petition seeks upgrades to the recreational space next to Melba Copland Secondary School on Conley Drive, Melba.

The ACT Government continues to invest in new and upgraded facilities across the Canberra Region. The Government has a strong track record in listening to the community as we deliver a rolling program of upgrades to a range of recreational infrastructure, including play spaces, sporting facilities, footpaths, seating, lighting, and other important community facilities. All requests for improvements to Canberra playgrounds are assessed and prioritised annually and considered for future improvements where necessary. This includes considering the provision of community recreational infrastructure on a priority basis, 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 November 2021 the ACT Government released the draft ACT Play Space Strategy for community consultation. It 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. When finalised in 2022, the Strategy will set the strategic direction for the future of play spaces in the ACT. It will guide the forward planning, delivery and management of play spaces across the entire play space network, ensuring an equitable, inclusive, diverse and engaging mix of play opportunities across Canberra to ensure Canberrans have equitable access to a mix of district, central and local neighbourhood playgrounds.

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



+61 2 6205 1470



steel@act.gov.au



@ChrisSteelMLA



chrissteellabor



chrissteelmla

While there are currently no plans to upgrade the area adjacent to Melba Copland Secondary School, consultation will be undertaken to ensure community needs and priorities are identified and incorporated into any upgrades in the future.

Thank you for raising this matter. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C Steel', is positioned above the typed name.

Chris Steel MLA  
Minister for Transport and City Services  
3/02/2022