



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
London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter of 8 May 2020 regarding petition 7-20 lodged by Ms Suzanne Orr MLA regarding playgrounds in Ngunnawal.

In the ACT safety inspections audits against Australian Standards for playgrounds are regularly conducted with more than 26,000 undertaken on Canberra playgrounds last year. The playground at the junction of Burrumurra Avenue and Maynard Street Ngunnawal and the playgrounds in Amaroo are regularly inspected as part of this program. In addition, detailed level 3 compliance inspections, as specified in the standard, are conducted on all playgrounds annually by an independent inspector.

I am advised that the playground at the junction of Burrumurra Avenue and Maynard Street Ngunnawal remains safe and fit for play, noting that some of the play equipment is ageing. General maintenance and repairs are also conducted during these visits and any major work is programmed to be undertaken as quickly as possible.

To gain a better understanding of the community's priorities for park and playground facilities in established suburbs, the Government conducted the "Better Suburbs" deliberative democracy initiative in 2018 that was attended by a broad cross section of the community. This initiative included a Play Space Forum on 19 August 2018 where participants identified a range of criteria and recommendations which will be used to inform future decision-making about playgrounds. The participants also allocated funding for priority upgrade works. The safety audits also determine the priorities for playground upgrades. As you would expect child safety is the most important criteria in the audit process.

I can advise that participants in the process did not allocate funding for works at the Maynard Street Neighbourhood Playground, although this playground and many others across the city will be

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considered for future upgrades based on the results of safety audits and in light of the decision-making framework developed by the Play Space Forum.

During the current COVID-19 pandemic, the ACT Government has committed an additional \$300k stimulus package towards refreshing another 30 playgrounds across Canberra. Of these playgrounds, Violets Park in Ngunnawal has received a refresh including repainting and repairing and replacement of the decking and the Softfall.

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

Yours sincerely



Chris Steel MLA
Minister for City Services

11 August 2020