



Yvette Berry MLA

Deputy Chief Minister
Minister for Early Childhood Development
Minister for Education and Youth Affairs
Minister for Housing and Suburban Development
Minister for Women
Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence
Minister for Sport and Recreation

Member for Ginninderra

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

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter dated 3 August 2021 regarding e-petition No 22-21, lodged by Mr Michael Pettersson MLA. The petition requests Nicholls Oval Upgrades including, funding a significant upgrade to the Nicholls Oval Amenities; to cater for more participants, primarily females; building a suitable centre that caters for a range of community events, to help foster a self-sufficient facility that encourages community activities; and overhaul and upgrade the fields to suit premier division sport and harsh conditions. My response to the petition is detailed below.

The ACT Government has committed to invest in sport and recreation infrastructure over the current term and is presently rolling out a number of upgrades. A range of key priorities and commitments have been identified, including female friendly upgrades at a number of locations around the ACT.

The Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) Sports and Recreation Facilities (SRF) unit has an identified program of works for the establishment, upgrade and renewal of sports grounds assets across the city. Upgrades to female friendly facilities at Nicholls Oval have not been identified as a priority for the available funding, which is being directed to other more aged and outdated facilities. However, the request by the petitioners has been noted and will be considered in future prioritisation.

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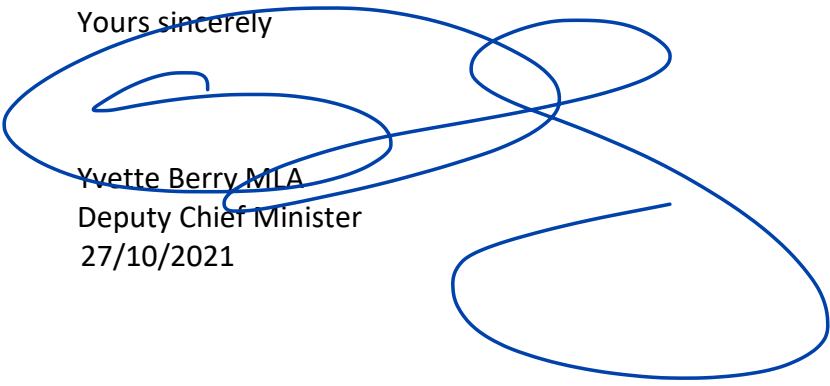
The existing community centre is operated under a sublease arrangement with Nicholls Sports Precinct Limited. The community centre is considered adequate for its intended use to support community activities.

As noted in previous correspondence to Michael Pettersson MLA, of 22 March 2021, TCCS SRF has investigated surface and soil structure and current water drainage issues at Nicholls Oval.

The investigation recommended the installation of drainage infrastructure across the entire site as the preferred option. I am pleased to report that these works are programmed to be undertaken during the 2021-22 financial year. The works are significant and will cause disruption to normal use. TCCS SRF will engage with sporting user groups to minimise disruption and provide alternative facilities as required. The works will address the petitioners' concerns about the quality of the playing surface and complement the recent investment in LED lighting at this location.

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

Yours sincerely



Yvette Berry MLA
Deputy Chief Minister
27/10/2021