



Minister for City Services  
Minister for Multicultural Affairs  
Minister for Recycling and Waste Reduction  
Minister for Roads and Active Travel  
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 20 August 2019 regarding petition number 24-19 lodged by Miss Candice Burch MLA about upgrades to the Yarralumla Shops.

The ACT Territory Plan identifies the objectives of local shopping centres (CZ4 – Local Centre Zone) as to provide convenient shopping and services to meet the daily needs of their local communities and to enable a cultural and community identity appropriate to the place.

In the ACT there are 90 commercial shopping centres, including 66 local shops, 19 group centres, four town centres and Civic. All buildings within the centres are privately owned with the surrounding public areas on unleased land, in most instances, managed by the ACT Government. However, there are some instances where the leased land extends to include some to all the public spaces adjacent to the commercial buildings. For the Local Centre Zoned (CZ4) areas at the Yarralumla local shops, the public spaces, which are also referred to as the shopping precinct, are managed by the ACT Government through Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCS).

To identify shopping precinct priorities for upgrades across Canberra, each local shopping centre is assessed for its demonstrable need for improvement. The assessment considers the current provision, condition and suitability of the public realm with that centre, including public infrastructure such as parking areas, lighting, accessibility of public walkways, landscaping, signage, trees, etc. Where public realm falls within leased land, the lessee is responsible for these areas.

Local shopping precinct upgrades focus on measures to improve safety, amenity and function with funding contributions also sought from private parties to assist with the ongoing commercial viability of local shopping centres. Those local shopping precincts that receive improvements are likely to see increased turnover, so it's important to provide opportunity for private parties to co-contribute to such improvements.

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## ACT Legislative Assembly

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia  
Phone +61 2 6205 1470 Email [steel@act.gov.au](mailto:steel@act.gov.au)



@ChrisSteelMLA



christeellabor



chrissteelmla



In relation to safety and security concerns, TCCS has engaged an external consultant to design new bollards or similar measures to improve safety for patrons and retailers at the Yarralumla Shops. The design should be complete by June 2020.

An officer from TCCS has assessed the Yarralumla Shops and confirmed that TCCS maintain the streetlighting on the footpaths outside the awnings. All the lighting under the awnings at the shops are owned and maintained by the building owner. The streetlights on Bentham Street were updated approximately five years ago by TCCS. The remaining streetlights in the area have been added to the list for future replacement as part of the major upgrade of ACT's streetlight network to energy efficient Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights, which will improve the overall quality of lighting.

TCCS has also inspected and confirmed the provision of parking around the Yarralumla shops. There are currently on-street parking areas on Hutchins, Banks, Hooker and Mueller Streets for Yarralumla Shop patrons. Parking requirements for shops are defined in the planning guidelines Parking and Vehicular Access Guide. The current arrangements for the Yarralumla Shops meet the provision guide of six spaces per 100 sqm of gross floor area, with visitor's parking within 200 metres of the shops. A review of land custodianship, within a 100 metre radius from the shops, indicates that the only two publicly owned blocks are already allocated as carparking areas.

As an alternative to providing additional parking spaces, time restrictions have been applied to the public parking areas and on the nearby streets to improve the turnover. Mobility parking has also been provided in front of the shops to ensure accessibility near the Yarralumla Shop buildings for people with a disability.

The ACT Government has improved parking and amenities access around Yarralumla Shops over the last six years. Improvements to the pavement in the pedestrian area have also been undertaken to increase accessibility to amenities. In relation to other supporting public facilities and amenity, TCCS has repainted and repaired the seats and walls to improve amenity and has a regular cleaning program for the public realm, including daily cleaning of the toilet. Public toilet facilities are upgraded based on condition and are generally provided in high use areas including town and district parks, group shopping centres and sportsgrounds where private facilities are not available.

I understand that the Yarralumla Shops are a thriving local centre, which is highly valued by the local community. Thank you for raising this matter. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Chris Steel MLA  
Minister for City Services

6 NOV 2019