



# Meegan Fitzharris MLA

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Member for Yerrabi

Minister for Health and Wellbeing

Minister for Transport and City Services

Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research

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

Dear Mr Duncan *Tom*

Thank you for your letter of 10 April 2018 regarding petition No 10-18, lodged by Ms Elizabeth Kikkert MLA on behalf of Page residents regarding the need to increase active living options for senior citizens in Page, specifically considering the following:

- a pedestrian crossing on Burkitt Street Page;
- a footpath from Burkitt street along Birrell Street to the Birrell Street playground; and
- benches and fitness equipment at the Birrell Street playground.

## **Pedestrian crossing**

An assessment of the pedestrian crossing needs on Burkitt Street has been undertaken recently and officers from Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) have visited the site and undertaken traffic and pedestrian counts. The results of the assessment suggest that very few pedestrians cross Burkitt Street and that a zebra crossing would not be appropriate at this location.

TCCS are aware that older pedestrians do need assistance to cross and they are investigating other options to assist pedestrians to cross, such as road narrowing, traffic calming or a pedestrian refuge island.

In addition, the existing warning signs, which are of an older style, will be replaced with a higher standard sign that is more visible.

## **Footpaths**

I am pleased to advise the following footpath improvements in Page will be implemented by the end of July 2018 weather permitting:

- a new path along Birrell Street between Burkitt Street and Knaggs Crescent;
- a new path along Knaggs Crescent between Burkitt Street and Dalachy Street; and
- a new path connecting Thozet Place and Bynoe Place through the open space.

## **AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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The ACT Government recognises the importance of improving community paths and cycling facilities to provide safe and attractive routes and is working hard to improve the existing path networks and create additional new path connections.

### **Playground upgrade**

I am advised that the playground at Birrell Street which previously consisted of only a swing set, was upgraded in May 2017. The playground now includes a children's slide, swing set, steering wheel, abacus panel, fire pole, ramp climber, monkey bars, balance beam, pommel walk, chin up bar, chain balance walk and a net climber.

The closest fitness station is located at Beaurepaire Crescent Neighbourhood Park in Holt. It consists of a chin up bar, a push up bar and parallel bars. In general, fitness equipment is located in higher use parks where it will benefit the maximum number of users. A larger community fitness station site is located at John Knight Memorial Park which consists of a large range of equipment including a vault, shoulder press, aerobic walker and many more activities.

In addition, a developer undertaking work in West Belconnen advises that fitness equipment will be installed at the Strathnairn Community Recreation Irrigated Park that will be built within the next year.

Currently, there are 21 Canberra suburbs which have fitness equipment such as sit up benches, chin-up bars and balance beams available at a local park or open space. A list of these suburbs and the fitness equipment available is at [www.act.gov.au/outdoorfitness](http://www.act.gov.au/outdoorfitness).

The ACT Government is aware of a growing community demand for more relevant and appropriate playground facilities and exercise equipment in established suburbs. The current approach to the provision and management of established playgrounds is being reviewed by TCCS in light of this community demand and other factors such as changing demographics.

In addition, a community engagement process underway through the 'Better Suburbs' initiative will be used to inform future policy approaches and decision-making about how best to meet community needs in a sustainable way. You can access more information about this initiative including opportunities to have your say at [www.yoursay.act.gov.au/BetterSuburbs](http://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/BetterSuburbs).

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

Yours sincerely



Meegan Fitzharris MLA  
Minister for Transport and City Services