



Yvette Berry MLA

Deputy Chief Minister

Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development

Minister for Housing and Suburban Development

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and
Family Violence

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Minister for Women

Member for Ginninderra

Mr Tom Duncan
Clerk
ACT Legislative Assembly
Tom.Duncan@parliament.act.gov.au

Dear Mr Duncan *Tom*

Thank you for your letters of 13 August 2019 and 22 August 2019 relating to the petitions (20-19 and 25-19) lodged by Ms Joy Burch MLA seeking the ACT Government to *"urgently review existing facilities in both public and private ownership and to ensure that roller derby in the ACT has the required facilities for future growth and demand"*.

I am pleased to advise the ACT Government has progressed several initiatives to support the sport of roller derby, including greater access to several ACT Government school facilities now and into the future.

This includes improvements to the gymnasium at the Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning in Stirling to support increased community access and usage of this facility by a range of sporting groups, including the Canberra Roller Derby League (CRDL). With the permission of the Education Directorate, the CRDL installed white line markings on the court for roller derby activities at this facility.

The Varsity Derby League was advised in September 2019 that there is currently some availability to hire the gymnasium at Hawker College. Members of the Varsity Derby League are currently investigating this option to determine if the venue will be suitable for its needs.

Regarding longer term facility options, I am pleased to advise the new ACT Government school to be located in Denman-Prospect is being designed to accommodate a range of community programs outside of school hours.

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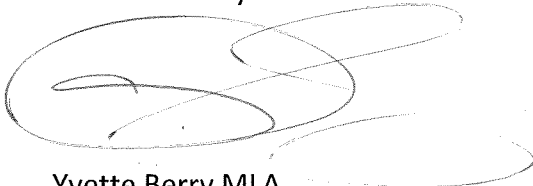
Key aspects of the project will include:

- a larger two court indoor gymnasium and associated facilities (i.e. change rooms). This outcome is in line with the ACT Government response to the *Planning for Indoor Facilities and Other Sport and Infrastructure Report*: that the early planning and design for any new ACT Government schools will consider the current and future demand for indoor sporting facilities in that region;
- a range of sport court line markings, including roller derby, and provide dedicated community storage space;
- the local roller derby leagues (CRDL and the Varsity Derby League) have been identified as priority user groups and will be provided with the first opportunity to hire/access the indoor courts, outside of school hours, when the school opens in early 2021; and
- Sport and Recreation is working with the Education Directorate to investigate the suitability of the recommended floor surface for the new school gymnasium (as detailed in the current design):
 - The proposed floor surface is specified as 'Pulastic 2000' and has been installed at Margaret Hendry School in Taylor. A trial by roller derby players on the new surface installed at the Margaret Hendry School is being arranged during November 2019. This trial will test the suitability of the surface for the players and indicate what level of ongoing wear and tear there will be on the surface.
 - Should the proposed surface not be suitable for roller derby use, the Education Directorate will consider replacing the synthetic surface with a sprung timber floor system. This system has higher installation and maintenance costs and will need to be assessed against total project costs at this stage.

I am also aware the Southern Cross Stadium in Greenway has supported the delivery of roller derby events for many years. Recognising the ACT Government does not own dedicated indoor sport court facilities, I acknowledge that the private sector does, and will continue to, play an important role in providing indoor sport court facilities across the ACT.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this matter.

Yours sincerely



Yvette Berry MLA
Deputy Chief Minister

12 NOV 2019