



Tara Cheyne MLA

Minister for the Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy
Minister for City Services
Minister for Government Services and Regulatory Reform
Minister for Human Rights

Member for Ginninderra

Our ref: 24/262

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

18 June 2024

Dear Mr Duncan *Tom*

Thank you for your letter regarding petition 001-24, lodged by Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, regarding toilet facilities at Ruth Park playground in Coombs.

Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) is responsible for the maintenance of public land across Canberra, including 69 public toilets at shops and in urban parks. The ACT Government generally provides public toilets in high use urban open space locations, such as district parks, larger shopping centres and for user hire at sports grounds, where private facilities are not available.

Ruth Park playground in Coombs is classified as a central community park and includes picnic facilities that are intended to support a broad catchment area and encourage visitation for longer periods of time. TCCS advise that the provision of toilet facilities at Ruth Park would be consistent with ACT's Municipal Infrastructure Standards. As identified through the petition, toilet facilities were not built at the time the park was constructed as a result of consultation with nearby residents.

However, I acknowledge that community views may have shifted during this time and the strong support from the petitioners for the construction of toilet facilities. In recognition of this and the

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strong advocacy by Dr Paterson on behalf of the petitioners and members of the Molonglo Valley and Weston Creek communities, I am pleased to share that the ACT Government will fund the construction of a new toilet at Ruth Park in the 2024-25 Budget.

The delivery of a new toilet will ensure that all members of the community can visit and enjoy all that Ruth Park has to offer. Delivery timeframes will be subject to design, utilities works and procurement, but I expect the new toilet will open in the new year. TCCS will engage with the community through the delivery process.

The ACT Government is committed to providing high quality parks, playgrounds and amenities for all Canberrans and will continue to invest in projects that support the growing Molonglo Valley and Weston Creek communities.

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

Yours sincerely



Tara Cheyne MLA
Minister for City Services