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Minister for Transport and City Services

Minister for Skills

Special Minister of State

Member for Murrumbidgee

Mr Tom Duncan

Clerk

ACT Legislative Assembly

London Circuit

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter regarding Petition Number E-PET-020-23, lodged by Mark Parton MLA. The petition has requested improvement to the connection used as part of the Point Hut Pond Parkrun. My response to the petition is detailed below.

The ACT Government recognises the importance of improving community path and cycling facilities to provide safe and attractive routes in the ACT for people to use. The Parkrun charity's mission, which is to *transform health and happiness by empowering people to come together, to be active, social and outdoors* aligns closely with the ACT Government's Healthy Canberra ACT Preventative Health Plan 2020-2025 (the Plan). Supporting more people to participate in sport and active recreation across all stages of life enables active living and improves wellbeing.

Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) receives many requests each year for the construction of new community paths and path infrastructure to provide improved connectivity within the existing network. To deliver these requests in the best way and with available resources, TCCS assesses all path requests considering demand, proximity to community infrastructure like schools and public transport. Locations where there are acute safety hazards for pedestrians are given higher priority. The list of community path requests is dynamic as new requests are received, assessed, and added to the priority program.

As you may be aware, ACT Government has committed \$26 million in the active travel infrastructure program with a proportion of this funding dedicated to constructing path network 'missing links'.

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This request for construction of a community path connection to complete the paved section of the Parkrun course at the northeast corner of Point Hut Pond, from the northwest of McGilvray Close in front of the car park through to Point Hut Pond District Park has been assessed and identified to be a high priority.

However, as mentioned, the community path priority list is dynamic as new requests are received and works are completed. The proposed path will be reconsidered as part of the annual review process and subject to relative priorities across the ACT may be included as part of a future capital works program.

With respect to the maintenance of existing paths used by Parkrun, Roads ACT regularly undertakes inspections of the path network, including of Fix My Street footpath maintenance requests. Individual specific path maintenance requests can be submitted through the Access Canberra Fix My Street form at www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/s/fix-my-street.

I'm aware of the steady increase in popularity of Parkrun across the ACT (Ginninderra, Tuggeranong, Gungahlin, Burley Griffin, Coombs, Mount Ainslie, Wagi Bridge, Umbagog District and Point Hut Pond parkruns). I note that a recent post identified that for 11 November 2023, across the 9 Parkrun events in the ACT there were 2,051 finishes and 170 volunteers. Weekly Parkrun events are a fun free benefit available to everyone and the ACT Government is committed to improving community paths and cycling facilities to provide safe and attractive routes in the ACT for people to use.

I trust the information provided above has been helpful.

Yours sincerely



Chris Steel MLA
Minister for Transport and City Services