



Tara Cheyne MLA
Manager of Government Business
Attorney-General
Minister for Human Rights
Minister for City and Government Services
Minister for the Night-Time Economy
Member for Ginninderra

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

30 November 2025

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter concerning petition E-PET 039-25, lodged by Ms Leanne Castely MLA regarding the management of trees.

The ACT Government appreciates the opportunity to provide information about the maintenance and planting of trees in the walkway between Doolette Place and Menzie Place in Kambah.

The City and Environment Directorate is responsible for the management and maintenance of more than 846,000 trees on public land and streets within urban areas of the ACT and employs a team of suitably skilled staff to carry out this task. Ensuring that public safety is not compromised by the presence of trees within the urban area is a high priority and decisions relating to the management of urban trees are generally based on this objective.

A City Services arborist has inspected the trees in this area, and there are no works required at this time. One request has previously been received for a fallen branch on a tree at the rear of 6 Doolette Street Kambah in February 2025. The fallen branch was removed and the tree was assessed as structurally sound and not requiring further works.



Due to suspected termite activity in the tree, it was also inspected by Royal Pest Control and direct treatment to a *Coptotermes Sp.* termite nest was undertaken on 29 May 2025.

Canberra's urban forest is a key part of what makes our city the most liveable in Australia. It is world renowned and a legacy of the forward-thinking that has characterised the development of our city. The urban forest is part of our identity as the bush capital. In line with targets set out in Canberra's Living Infrastructure Plan, by 2045 we aim to have 30% of our urban environment covered by a tree canopy or tree canopy equivalents such as green roofs, shrub beds, wetlands, or rain gardens.

act.gov.au

ACT Legislative Assembly
London Circuit, GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

+61 2 6205 0100
cheyne@act.gov.au

 taraforginninderra
 in_the_taratory

Planting locations are particularly focussed in areas of low urban canopy cover and areas where the canopy target is at risk of decline with the ageing of existing trees. Gaps in the existing tree canopy cover are also filled in suburbs which are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Residents can also nominate locations for planting, as was the case with the walkway between Doolette Place and Menzie Place in Kambah.

Species are chosen to match the existing character of each area. Consistent plantings of street trees along our public nature strips help to tie a street together and create unified, high-quality streetscapes. Where planting is proposed in new locations, species are selected to best suit the specific location, taking the impacts on the surrounding environment into consideration. For example, to promote solar access deciduous trees are planted on streets aligned east to west so that solar access to north facing residences is maintained in winter.

In the walkway between Doolette Place and Menzie Place in Kambah, smaller deciduous species have been selected due to the limited space available and to minimise any unwelcome shading of the adjoining residences.

The trees which have been planted in the public easement are a very small species of Crab-apple, *Malus transitoria* 'Royal Raindrops', which does not reach higher than 4-5 metres.

An additional tree has been planted at a distance of at least 15 metres from properties and can grow to a maximum height of 15 metres, but somewhere between 10-12 metres is more likely. This species, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* 'cimmzam', was chosen for its reliability, autumn colour, shade in summer, and solar access in winter.

All proposed planting sites are assessed and approved by the mowing team prior to planting, and there is sufficient space to mow around the trees planted in the walkway.

Thank you for bringing the petition to my attention. I trust the information provided is helpful.

Sincerely



Tara Cheyne MLA
Minister for City and Government Services