



Chris Steel MLA

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 26-22, lodged by Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, regarding parking and urban open space for Gungahlin apartment dwellers and small business owners.

The ACT Government recognises the importance of parking for facilitating access and takes parking safety seriously. Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) is aware of the parking concerns raised in the petition and is reviewing on-street parking restrictions in this area to tailor them to better meet the needs of local residents and visitors. Subject to consultation with local residents and businesses, changes to parking restrictions in this area will be implemented in 2023. Roads ACT will monitor their effectiveness and safety.

The on-street parking restrictions in this area were implemented ahead of the construction of mixed-use buildings in the area. Now most of the blocks in the area have been developed, and a variety of retail and commercial facilities have opened, Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) Roads and Paths is in the process of reviewing parking restrictions in the area, aiming to optimise them for local needs.

Access Canberra Parking Operations will continue to monitor parking in the area. A risk-based compliance approach is applied to target resources to unsafe parking practices where there is a risk of harm.

The vacant site at Block 6, Section 88 in Gungahlin is privately leased, with a Crown Lease granted over the block in 2010. There is no active Development Application (DA) lodged over the block. While the block is vacant and yet to be developed by the private lessee for commercial reasons, the site has already been sold, and the ACT Government cannot withdraw the sale to 'take back' the land.

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However, car park is a permitted use on Block 6, Section 88 in Gungahlin. The site could be developed with a public car park by the private lessee as part of the development on the site, should demand support the viability of a commercial public car park.

The draft Active Travel Plan outlines the ACT's vision for making town centres more walkable in and a recent active travel feasibility study of the Gungahlin Town Centre has identified a number of specific improvements that could be made to create better and safer connections between the Gungahlin Town Centre and Yerrabi Pond, including concepts for a link between Gribble Street and Wunderlich Streets with a signalised crossing over Gundaroo Drive. This would be subject to future budget consideration.

Urban open space improves our wellbeing and helps us connect to nature even while living in an urban environment. It provides space for outdoor recreation and supports wildlife and biodiversity. Access to Yerrabi Pond District Park is approximately 150 metres from the subject undeveloped block. It was designed as a district park to provide urban space access for apartment residents in this area and beyond.

Funding was provided in the 2020-21 ACT Budget for amenity improvements at Yerrabi Pond. Following the consultation, a number of potential improvements were identified, with works now complete for:

- 8 new seats
- plantings including near the water's edge and in the existing shrub beds
- 22 new 'shared path' signs and additional line marking at key locations
- drainage works along the path network to reduce pooling of water on the paths
- new softfall for the flying fox
- new half climbing wall
- new bin shrouds (covers) on 12 existing bins around the Pond.

Funding was also provided in the 2021-22 ACT Budget for planning and design work for improved and new amenities including increased car parking, picnic and toilet facilities and additional streetlighting.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Chris Steel MLA
Minister for Transport and City Services
6 February 2023