



## Mick Gentleman MLA

Manager of Government Business  
Minister for Planning and Land Management  
Minister for Police and Emergency Services  
Minister for Corrections  
Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety

Member for Brindabella

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Tom Duncan  
Clerk  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
[Tom.duncan@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:Tom.duncan@parliament.act.gov.au)

Dear Mr Duncan *Tom*

I refer to your letter of 30 November 2022 regarding petition No 28-22 Margaret Timpson Park.

The site identified in the Petition, Block 45 Section 54 Belconnen, is being considered for a potential Demonstration Housing Project site.

As the process regarding the site is under active consideration, there is limited further information that can be provided until this process is finalised. Should the site not progress as part of the Demonstration Housing Project, it will be rescheduled on the Indicative Land Release Program for release by the Suburban Land Agency for future development.

The site has the potential to provide much needed housing close to public transport and the town centre, and meets the ACT Planning Strategy's goal of providing 70 per cent of new residential development within the existing urban footprint and with a focus on centres and transport corridors. Development of the site is consistent with recommendations of the 2016 Belconnen Town Centre Master Plan and the corresponding changes to the Territory Plan (with Variation 342). The rezoning to CZ2 was made to accommodate future redevelopment of the site, with the CZ2 zoning permitting a range of future uses including residential and commercial.

The ACT Government has invested in a number of public realm projects in the Belconnen Town Centre and surrounding vicinity in recent years, including:

- Belconnen Skate Park – a new Skateboard competition half pipe at the Belconnen Skate Park

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- Lake Ginninderra path link – a foreshore path link from the Emu Bank commercial area across the front of the Art Centre to Emu inlet
- Belconnen Lakeshore – a feasibility study for widening of the shared path around Lake Ginninderra
- Lake Ginninderra – upgrades to the existing toilet facility and a new toilet facility at John Knight Memorial Park
- Bikeways Stage 1 - the first stage of the Belconnen Bikeway from Coulter Drive in Florey through to the University of Canberra to Haydon Drive via College Street.

Since 2018, the ACT Government has invested \$5.8 million in play spaces across Canberra, including 10 new play spaces, and undertaking upgrades and refreshing 66 existing play spaces. Improvements to existing parks are considered annually.

The ACT Government is working to deliver our current program of improvements and upgrades to recreational spaces across the Territory, including new play spaces in Aranda and Kaleen.

The Government will consider opportunities for new and upgraded play spaces in the Belconnen Town Centre during future stages of our suburban infrastructure program. Consultation will be undertaken to ensure community needs and priorities are identified and incorporated.

I thank you for referring this petition for my consideration and trust the information clarifies the ACT Government's current position.

Yours sincerely



Mick Gentleman MLA  
Minister for Planning and Land Management

*11/5/2023*