



**Chris Steel MLA**

Minister for Transport and City Services

Minister for Skills

Special Minister of State

Member for Murrumbidgee

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

Dear Mr Duncan,

Thank you for your letter of 18 October 2022 about petition No 30-22 lodged by Ms Lawder relating to carparking at Stromlo Forest Park.

The ACT Government recognises the popularity of Stromlo Forest Park (SFP) as a premier sporting facility in the ACT, and that community consultation is essential when introducing changes to a valued community space. For this reason, the carpark upgrade underwent public consultation as part of the 2016 SFP Masterplan development (the Masterplan). The Masterplan identified the future needs of the park, future challenges, and as well as development opportunities. The Government continues to deliver on commitments made under the plan, with milestones including the Stromlo Leisure Centre, the planning of the Molonglo District Playing Fields, the Criterium Track Extension, the planned Carpark upgrades and event village green.

The Masterplan identified the need for a surfaced, all-weather carpark, and the ACT Government allocated \$2.866 million for its design and construction in the 2021-22 budget.

The carpark upgrades are necessary because the existing unsealed carpark suffers considerable erosion which can be hazardous to people and vehicles, has high maintenance costs and tends to encourage unsafe parking along Dave McInnes Road. The upgrades will deliver a wide range of benefits, including more accessible parking, designated car parks for people with disabilities, larger spaces to accommodate people transporting bicycles, wider alleys and no wheel stops.

The company commissioned to design the carpark undertook thorough research concerning its location and interaction with the trails to ensure the user and visitor experience is not adversely

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impacted. Considerable data was collected on traffic flow, parking behaviour and practical use which have been incorporated into the proposed plans. The carpark development application, including all design plans, was available for viewing and comment on the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate website, and design comments will be taken into consideration as part of the approval process.

Before and during the design of the carpark, the ACT Government has been conducting consultation with SFP users and the broader community. The proposed design was developed in consultation with the Stromlo Stakeholder Consultative Committee (SSCC). The SSCC comprises eight key SFP user groups across different sporting interests, established to help guide major park decisions, and includes: ACT Equestrian Association; AusCycling; Canberra Off Road Cycling; Indigenous Marathon Foundation; Pedal Power; Triathlon ACT; We Ride; and YMCA Canberra Running Club. Capturing the feedback of every individual is not possible, hence the prerequisite to be a group representing a larger body of people to become a member of the SSCC.

The ACT Government also engaged with the Weston Creek Community Council and Canberra Off-Road Cyclists, with two forums occurring in September and October and attended by over 100 people in person and online.

A proposal to implement an own-source revenue paid parking model at Stromlo Forest Park, like the model already implemented at National Arboretum Canberra, has been provided to the ACT Government with support of several user groups. The Government has been considering the proposal and will announce a position in 2023.

The ACT Government will continue to listen to the breadth of views in the community on the future of Stromlo as it grows and will continue to take on board feedback about how to improve the precinct and to capitalise on opportunities for development as the park evolves.

Most recently, consultation has identified the need to identify, prioritise and plan new trails at Stromlo. As a result, the ACT Government will develop an overarching Trails Masterplan to guide development of this infrastructure over the next five years. Throughout this process, the ACT Government will engage directly with sporting groups, the SSCC and the public.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Chris Steel MLA  
Special Minister of State  
13 December 2022