



## Yvette Berry MLA

Deputy Chief Minister  
Minister for Early Childhood Development  
Minister for Education and Youth Affairs  
Minister for Housing and Suburban Development  
Minister for Women  
Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence  
Minister for Sport and Recreation

Member for Ginninderra

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

Dear Mr Duncan 

Thank you for your letter regarding petition 025-23, lodged by Mr Andrew Braddock MLA, regarding lighting at Ngunnawal Oval.

The ACT has the highest participation rates in sport and recreation in Australia and it is important to ensure every region across Canberra has reliable access to good local sporting facilities to accommodate a range of organised sports. For a number of years Gungahlin has consistently been one of the fastest growing regions in Australia. This has resulted in commensurate growth in demand for organised sport, with sportsground managers fielding a strong demand for access to sportsgrounds for organised sport training and matchplay time.

The ACT Government has committed to improve the Ngunnawal Neighbourhood Oval with upgrades including parking enhancements, sportsground flood lighting, toilet facilities and an improved irrigation system. Currently the site is not a bookable facility, with its most common use being for ad-hoc community recreation activities. The improvements will provide much needed added capacity for organised sport and take pressure off other bookable facilities in the Gungahlin region.

In relation to the provision of the floodlighting system at Ngunnawal Neighbourhood Oval, I can advise similar lighting systems have been installed at over 70 sportsgrounds across Canberra including within residential areas, most recently, a floodlighting system was installed at the Watson Neighbourhood Oval off Knox Street. Sportsground floodlighting is installed to comply with the relevant Australian Standards.

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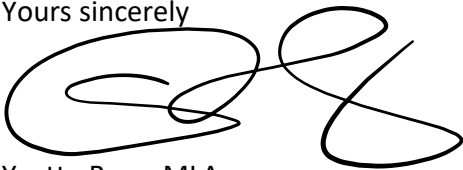
Commissioning tests and measurements at other sportsgrounds across Canberra have shown flood lights easily meet standards for restricting light spill. The standards take into account vertical illuminance (spill) and beam intensity on residential blocks minimising the impact on surrounding residential properties. The ACT Government incorporates best practice lighting design into all its infrastructure projects and has a sportsground floodlighting maintenance contract in place to routinely inspect any reported light spill issues.

Sportsground lighting is only available to those with bookings and is not operational nor available to the public outside of booking times in the evenings. Booking hours are from 7.30am to 9pm daily noting lighting may continue to 9.15pm whilst pack-up occurs and to assist people to safely exit the facility. Note however that after 9pm, the lighting dims to less than 50% of its standard illuminance. These booking times are consistent across all ACT Government sport and recreation facilities.

Sportsground managers have determined a 9.15pm lights out policy meets the balance between allowing night-time training and matchplay on one hand and respecting the need for a no light environment into the evening for the convenience of local residents. Restricting floodlight hours of operation even further is detrimental to sporting clubs' capacity to cater for a large proportion of their members who value their exercise/recreation after work hours.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned to the right of the text 'Yours sincerely'.

Yvette Berry MLA  
Minister for Sport and Recreation

14 November 2023