



**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

26 November 2024

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter concerning petition E-PET-026-24, lodged by former Liberal member, Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert, regarding improvements to the Newbery Crescent neighbourhood park in Page.

The ACT Government manages over 500 playgrounds located across the ACT to meet the objectives of the ACT Play Space Strategy which are to keep playgrounds safe and welcoming for better health, wellbeing and connectedness of the ACT community.

As each playground varies in age and condition, audits against Australian Standards for safety are regularly conducted with more than 26,000 safety inspections undertaken on Canberra playgrounds each year. Any general maintenance and repairs are completed during these visits while significant work is programmed to be undertaken as soon as practicable.

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Importantly, child safety is the most important criteria in the audit process. The audit results, combined with demographic, spatial and social information, are used to determine a prioritised list of playgrounds for an upgrade, with the highest priority being to manage play space safety and amenity.

At times, temporary or permanent closures of playground equipment occurs to promptly address safety risks. The small spring rocker at the Newbery Crescent neighbourhood park in Page was the only piece of equipment at this play space and was removed because it was at end of life.

The ACT Government recently upgraded the playground at Page Oval, which now has multiple spring rockers, a shade sail, adjacent car parking spaces and a large oval. It is located within a convenient walking distance of 400 metres of the Newbery Crescent site.

Feedback from the community through consultation on the Play Space Strategy has highlighted a greater desire for investment in higher quality, larger play spaces in central locations, such as the upgraded playground at Page Oval.

Therefore, there are currently no immediate plans to replace this piece of equipment at Newbery Crescent.

The ACT Government through Transport Canberra and City Services welcomes further engagement with the local Page community about playgrounds and urban open spaces across the neighbourhood.

Thank you for raising this matter. I trust this information is of assistance.

Sincerely



Tara Cheyne MLA  
Minister for City and Government Services