

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

13 January 2025

Dear Mr Duncan *Tom*

Thank you for your letter concerning petitions E-PET-045 and PET-067-25 regarding the upgrade of Duigan Street Park and Playground in Scullin.

You may be aware that the ACT Government manages over 500 playgrounds across the ACT. It does so in accordance with 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.

The ACT Government's Play Space Strategy helps guide a strategic approach to investment across the entire play space network to ensure Canberrans have equitable access to a mix of district (larger, destination playgrounds like John Knight Memorial Park), central (play spaces located near community hubs, like at Holt or Cook shops), and local playgrounds (play spaces near homes with basic structured play equipment).

Feedback from the community through consultation on the Play Space Strategy highlighted a greater desire for investment in higher quality, larger play spaces in central locations.

In particular:

*The ACT community supports a 'quality over quantity' approach to improving the play space network. In the Canberra Destination Play Space Study, 84% of participants said they would prefer fewer but higher quality play spaces in their suburbs. This support for quality reflects how play spaces are used across Canberra, with many more people visiting district and central play spaces than local play spaces.*

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*The citizen-led Better Suburbs Statement 2030 concluded: “The focus should be on quality over quantity in play spaces and... we should use the existing budget to concentrate efforts on a smaller range of better facilities.” This recognises that simply seeking to maintain all ageing, under-used play spaces does not enhance the play value within our network or help us to meet community aspirations for quality play experiences.*

ACT Play Space Strategy, page 27

For this reason, the key focus area for the ACT Government is prioritising district and central play areas and spaces for investment, including refresh and major upgrades. What this looks like is continuing to strengthen the quality and availability of public amenities around district play spaces, prioritising delivery of central play spaces to older suburbs that currently do not have these, and generally directing investment in local play spaces towards safety maintenance and minor refurbishments.

The *ACT Labor—Belconnen Regional Plan* outlines the commitments the ACT Government took to the election, including in relation to new and upgraded playgrounds. The commitments outlined in that plan form the work program for new and upgraded playgrounds to be delivered across the four-year term of Government for Belconnen (that is, until 2028). Those commitments for Belconnen include:

- A new playground, toilet and other facilities at Margaret Timpson Park (central);
- A new water play area at Emu Inlet in Belconnen Town Centre (central);
- A new Florey all-abilities playground (central);
- An upgrade playground at Umbagog District Park (district); and
- A new playground in McKellar (local).

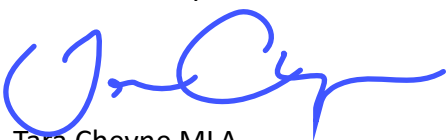
Duigan Street Park and Playground was not included for improvements in the Regional Plan. Because of this, I regret to advise that upgrades are not currently planned for Duigan Street in this term of Government.

The Duigan Street Park and Playground in Scullin play space is classified as a local neighbourhood play space within a local neighbourhood park. Consistent with the ACT Place Space Strategy, investment is directed towards safety maintenance and minor refurbishments.

That said, I recognise that there may be future opportunities to increase the number of central play areas in and around Scullin and existing local neighbourhood play spaces would be considered as part of that work.

Any urgent maintenance or safety issues may be registered through Fix My Street portal at [www.act.gov.au/fixmystreet](http://www.act.gov.au/fixmystreet) or Access Canberra on 13 22 81. This system enables reports and requests to be tracked, logged and followed up in a timely manner.

Yours sincerely



Tara Cheyne MLA  
Minister for City and Government Services