



ACT Government

2023–2024 Budget Consultation

budgetconsultation@act.gov.au

Dear Chief Minister

Budget requests for the suburb of Hackett

The Hackett Community Association (HCA) welcomes the opportunity to participate in the 2023-2024 Budget Consultation process.

The HCA requests that the ACT Government allocate funding for provision of tables in all open spaces in Hackett, the repurposing of the SES depot, Holtze Close for community purposes, funding to ensure the existing play equipment in the Bragg St Park meet the guidelines for recreation facilities and provision of a cycle way along Antill St.

Background and rationale

Tables for parks

Hackett is well served with open spaces such as the adjacent Mt Majura Reserve, as well as five parks scattered across the suburb - Tyron St-Mackenzie St, French St, Caldwell St, Gilruth St and Bragg St. There is also the spaces adjacent to both ends of the Hackett Oval.

For the 2020-2021 Budget Consultation, the HCA requested the provision of picnic tables in each of these spaces. In early 2020, the ACT Government kindly provided tables in the Gilruth and Bragg St parks. These tables have proved very popular with residents of all ages who use them to have a picnic, or just sit and talk with friends.

Hackett has seen an increasing number of young families move into the suburb in recent years. According to the 2021 Census, the Hackett community has changed as follows:

- total population increased 7% from 2,991 in 2016 to 3,227 in 2021;
- the group aged 0-19 years, increased from 757 in 2016 to 875 in 2021, or around 27% of the total population.

Informal observations around the suburb by members of the HCA, note an increase in the numbers of parents, and grandparents, accompanied by children visiting these parks. The Hackett Oval is also very popular with residents exercising by themselves, or with their dogs, as well as sporting groups using it throughout the week.

SES depot repurposing

In April 2022, the HCA wrote to the Chief Minister concerning the repurposing of blocks 13 and 14, section 12 Hackett, for community uses. This contact was in relation to the SES moving out of Block 13, while Block 14 is vacant. Both blocks are zoned as Community Facility Zone (CFZ) under the Territory Plan. The HCA understands that the SES move may not happen until later in 2023. Noting the demand for spaces for community groups to use across Canberra, the HCA requests funding be allocated to seek community views on

possible uses on this block and that subject to the responses, an appropriate level of funding be allocated to ensure this site is repurposed for community uses.

Play equipment, Bragg St Park

In 2022, the Bragg St Park Volunteers applied for a *Nature Play Program* Grant to provide additional nature play elements in the park. But the Urban Parks area could not support the application as the existing play equipment does not meet the *ACT Government RECREATION FACILITIES - MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE [Standards](#) 21* released in September 2021.

Specifically, they must be no closer than 20m to streets. The swings meet the criteria, but the rocking bike is less than 6m from the edge of Bragg St, while the slippery dip is 13m. The swings are 21.7m. At the time, Urban Parks did not have the budget to relocate these items. Members of the Bragg St Park Volunteers met Urban Parks staff in November 2022 to discuss the options which include moving the bike and swings, or placing a fence or garden barrier between these elements and Bragg St.

The volunteers have been raising funds to go towards provision of a few low-key nature play elements. However, until the existing equipment meets the new guidelines, the group cannot proceed with applying for grants to either develop a plan or instal these elements.

Bike path at the eastern end of Antill St linking Hackett with north Watson

This would ensure safe travel route for cyclists moving to and from North Watson to Dickson and the Canberra Centre.

We look forward to receiving favourable consideration of this submission.



Yours faithfully

Chris Mobbs

Chair

Hackett Community Association

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