



ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

Freedom of Information Publication Coversheet

The following information is provided pursuant to section 28 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*.

FOI Reference: CMTEDDFOI 2023-070

Information to be published	Status
1. Access application	Published
2. Decision notice	Published
3. Documents and schedule	Published
4. Additional information identified	No
5. Fees	N/A
6. Processing time (in working days)	29
7. Decision made by Ombudsman	N/A
8. Additional information identified by Ombudsman	N/A
9. Decision made by ACAT	N/A
10. Additional information identified by ACAT	N/A

From: no-reply@act.gov.au
To: [CMTEDD FOI](#)
Subject: Freedom of Information request-CMTEDDFOI 2023-070
Date: Thursday, 2 March 2023 11:56:41 AM

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please find online enquiry details below. Please ensure this enquiry is responded to within fourteen working days.

Your details

All fields are optional, however an email address OR full postal address must be provided for us to process your request. An email address and telephone contact number will assist us to contact you quickly if we need to discuss your request.

Title:

First Name:

Last Name:

Business/Organisation

Address:

Suburb:

Postcode:

State/Territory:

Phone/mobile:

Email address:

A large grey rectangular area redacting the user's personal details.

Request for information

(Please provide as much detail as possible, for example subject matter and relevant dates, and also provide details of documents that you are not interested in.)

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2016 I want to access the following document/s (*required field):

Any correspondence on the following subjects: 1. the Parliamentary Motion Regarding Mountain Biking at Stromlo Forest Park on the 20th October 2022; 2. the Stromlo to Cotter Flow Trail; or Parking arrangements at Stromlo Forest Park; which were exchanged between any of the following: Minister Steel's Office, Minister Berry's Office, Chief Minister Barr's Office, CMTEDD, and Stromlo Forest Park since the 24th August 2022.

I do not want to access the following documents in relation to my request::

Thank you.
Freedom of Information Coordinator



ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

Our ref: CMTEDD 2023-070



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the Act), received by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) on 2 March 2023 where you sought access to information regarding Stromlo Forest Park.

Specifically, you are seeking:

Any correspondence on the following subjects: 1. the Parliamentary Motion Regarding Mountain Biking at Stromlo Forest Park on the 20th October 2022; 2. the Stromlo to Cotter Flow Trail; or Parking arrangements at Stromlo Forest Park; which were exchanged between any of the following: Minister Steel's Office, Minister Berry's Office, Chief Minister Barr's Office, CMTEDD, and Stromlo Forest Park since the 24th August 2022.

Authority

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Director-General under section 18 of the Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act.

Timeframes

In accordance with section 40 of the Act, CMTEDD was required to provide a decision on your access application by 20 March 2023. However, following third-party consultation as required under section 38 of the Act, the due date for a decision was rescheduled to **26 April 2023**.

Decision on access

Searches were completed for relevant documents and ten documents were identified that fall within the scope of your request.

I have included as **Attachment A** to this decision the schedule of relevant documents. This provides a description of each document that falls within the scope of your request and the access decision for each of those documents.

I have decided to grant access in full to seven documents relevant to your request. I have decided to grant partial access to three documents as I consider them to be:

- contrary to the public interest information under schedule 1; or
- information that would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest to disclose under the test set out in section 17 of the Act.

In accordance with section 54(2) of the Act, my access decisions are detailed further in the following statement of reasons and the documents released to you are provided as **Attachment B** to this letter.

Statement of Reasons

In reaching my access decisions, I have taken the following into account:

- the Act
- the content of the documents that fall within the scope of your request
- the *Information Privacy Act 2014*

Exemption claimed

My reasons for deciding not to grant access to the identified documents and components of these documents are as follows:

Contrary to the public interest information under schedule 1 of the Act

Folio 5 contains Cabinet information that is considered to be contrary to the public interest under section 1.6 of schedule 1 of the Act, and therefore has been withheld from release. The primary purpose of the 'cabinet exemption' is to maintain the confidentiality of the cabinet process and to uphold the principle of collective ministerial responsibility. This was discussed in *The Commonwealth v Northern Land Council* [1993] HCA 24; (1993) 176 CLR 604 (21 April 1993). Paragraph 6 of the decision, states that:

... it has never been doubted that it is in the public interest that the deliberations of Cabinet should remain confidential in order that the members of Cabinet may exchange differing views and at the same time maintain the principle of collective responsibility for any decision which may be made.

In reviewing this document, I consider it contains information which has been developed as part of the Cabinet consideration process (s 1.6(1)(a)) or is directly related to the deliberation and considerations of Cabinet (s 1.6(1)(d)). I am satisfied that release of this information would disclose information which has not been 'officially disclosed' and in making this decision, I note the decision of Deputy President Forgie in *Re Toomer and Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Ors* [2003] AATA 1301 who stated:

.... deliberations are its thinking processes, be they directed to gathering information, analysing information or discussing strategies. They remain its deliberations whether or not a decision is reached. [Cabinet's] decisions are its conclusions as to the courses of action that it adopts be, they conclusions as to its final strategy on a matter or, its conclusions as to the manner in which a matter is to proceed.

Information that would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest to disclose under the test set out in section 17 of the Act

Public Interest

The Act has a presumption in favour of disclosure. As a decision maker I am required to decide where, on balance, public interests lies. As part of this process, I must consider factors favouring disclosure and non-disclosure.

In *Hogan v Hinch* (2011) 243 CLR 506, [31] French CJ stated that when 'used in a statute, the term [public interest] derives its content from "the subject matter and the scope and purpose" of the enactment in which it appears'. Section 17(1) of the Act sets out the test, to be applied to determine whether disclosure of information would be contrary to the public interest. These factors are found in subsection 17(2) and Schedule 2 of the Act.

Taking into consideration the information contained in the documents found to be within the scope of your request, I have identified that the following public interest factors are relevant to determine if release of the information contained within these documents is within the 'public interest'.

Factors favouring disclosure in the public interest:

- (a) *disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to do any of the following:*
- (i) *promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government's accountability.*
 - (ii) *contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest.*
 - (vii) *reveal the reason for a government decision and any background or contextual information that informed the decision.*

Information concerning business regulation for the Territory is reasonably expected to be in the public interest and disclosure would or could promote discussion and contribute to positive and informed debate. Release of this information could reasonably be expected to reveal the reason for a government decision, and I weigh this and the other factors for disclosure substantially.

Factors favouring nondisclosure in the public interest:

- (a) *disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to do any of the following:*
- (ii) *prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy or any other right under the Human Rights Act 2004.*

Having reviewed the information, I consider that the protection of an individual's right to privacy, is a significant factor. Release of information concerning individuals working within the ACT Public Service is generally not considered to prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy. However, where mobile phone numbers may be used for home and work purposes, this information is redacted, as it could or would reasonably be expected to prejudice an individual's right to privacy under the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Having applied the test outlined in section 17 of the Act and deciding that release of some personal information contained in the documents is not in the public interest to release, I have chosen to redact this specific information in accordance with section 50(2).

Noting the pro-disclosure intent of the Act, I am satisfied that redacting only the information that I believe is not in the public interest to release will ensure that the intent of the Act is met and will provide you with access to the majority of the information held by CMTEDD within the scope of your request.

Charges

Processing charges are not applicable for this request because there are less than 50 pages.

Online publishing – Disclosure Log

Under section 28 of the Act, CMTEDD maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. Your original access application, my decision and documents released to you in response to your access application will be published in the CMTEDD disclosure log after 18 April 2023. Your personal contact details will not be published.

You may view CMTEDD disclosure log at

<https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/functions/foi/disclosure-log-2023>

Ombudsman Review

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the Act. You have the right to seek Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published in CMTEDD disclosure log, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

We recommend using this form [Applying for an Ombudsman Review](#) to ensure you provide all of the required information. Alternatively, you may write to the Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Via email: actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) Review

Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under section 82(1) on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision. Further information may be obtained from the ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal
Level 4, 1 Moore St
GPO Box 370
Canberra City ACT 2601
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740
<http://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

Should you have any queries in relation to your request please contact me by telephone on 6207 7754 or email CMTEDDFOI@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Stuart', written in a cursive style.

Katharine Stuart
Information Officer
Information Access Team
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
12 April 2023



ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST SCHEDULE

WHAT ARE THE PARAMETERS OF THE REQUEST

Reference NO.

Any correspondence on the following subjects: 1. the Parliamentary Motion Regarding Mountain Biking at Stromlo Forest Park on the 20th October 2022; 2. the Stromlo to Cotter Flow Trail; or Parking arrangements at Stromlo Forest Park; which were exchanged between any of the following: Minister Steel's Office, Minister Berry's Office, Chief Minister Barr's Office, CMTEDD, and Stromlo Forest Park since the 24th August 2022.

2023-070

Ref No	Page number	Description	Date	Status	Reason for Exemption	Online Release Status
1		20220822 SFP Carpark capital project document	22/8/2022	Full	Sch 2 s2.2 (a)(xv)	Yes
2		20220912 QON 297 - SIGNED	12/9/2022	Full		Yes
3		20220926 SFP Carpark capital project	26/9/2022	Full		Yes
4		20221014 Clay motion as amended	14/10/2022	Partial	Sch 2 s2.2 (a)(ii)	Yes
5		20221122 Ministerial brief - Petition 30-22 Stromlo Forest Park Car Park Changes	22/11/2022	Partial	Sch 1 s1 1.6	Yes
6		20221213 Signed Letter re Carparking	13/12/2022	Full		Yes
7		20230206 Changes at Stromlo Forest Park	6/2/2023	Full		Yes
8		20230213 SFP Updates	13/02/2023	Partial	Sch 2 s2.2 (a)(ii)	Yes
9		Clay SFP motion (as amended by SMOs)		pFull		Yes
10		DLO Request - DOT POINTS - Response -SFP Masterplan and Carpark		Full		Yes
Total No of Docs						
10						



Communications on a page

Stromlo Forest Park carpark upgrade
Economic Development
29 August 2022

What is government's involvement/interest?	ACT Government provided funding in the 2021-2022 budget to upgrade the existing Stromlo Forest Park (SFP) carpark to meet growing visitation requirements and WHS requirements.		
Why are we communicating on this issue?	<p>The Merit Track Development Application for the SFP carpark construction project does not require public consultation. The carpark project was assessed as a minor notification due to the existing carpark space, with no new environmental requirements due to prior environmental disturbance of site. There was no heritage concern.</p> <p>From a good practice communication perspective Stromlo Forest Park informed its visitors that there would be changes onsite due to the planned upgrade of the existing carpark.</p>		
Does it cross over other Directorates/ agencies?	ACT Property Group	Spokesperson	Scott Saddler AM, Executive Branch Manager
Communications project tier	Tier Three -two engagement – this is a one-off announcement related to targeted stakeholders.		
Target audience/ stakeholders/third party endorsers	SFP carpark communication is to inform key stakeholders and visitors of a carpark upgrade on the existing carpark site, to meet growing onsite visitation needs and address WHS concerns and ongoing carpark maintenance issues.		
Stromlo Strategic Consultative Committee	<p>Stromlo Strategic Consultative Committee – a reference group from the key sporting disciplines that utilise the site with membership bases. Stromlo Forest Park received endorsement letters for the carpark to be upgraded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canberra Off Road Cyclists • Pedal Power ACT • Indigenous Marathon Foundation • Triathlon ACT • AusCycling • We Ride • Tri Running Group • ACT Equestrian Association 		
Members of the public	Members of the public through onsite signage, SFP website and Facebook page.		
Local residents	Weston Creek Community Council and Molonglo Valley Community Forum to attend their local meetings		
Related stakeholders	<p>ACT Property Group and YMCA regarding the Stromlo Leisure Centre</p> <p>ACT Sports and Recreation regarding their future sports playing fields.</p> <p>Onsite Commercial Stakeholders.</p> <p>ICON Water and Evo Energy</p>		

Commented [SMK1]: Suggest making this tier 2, given the breadth of users and that there isn't consensus

Approved by: Scott Saddler AM Surname, 54056
Action officer: Christine Callen, 54468
Date: August 2022

Communications on a page

Stromlo Forest Park carpark upgrade

Economic Development

29 August 2022

Key Messages

- ACT Government is upgrading the Stromlo Forest Park carpark and improving user safety.
- The carpark upgrade will deliver a parking facility encouraging safe circulation, a larger number of car spaces while also enhancing the landscape and pedestrian network of the site and its surrounds.
- Key features include: 500 parking spaces | 14 disabled parking spaces | long vehicle parking. New asphalt pavement on carparks and shared paths, and improved stormwater management blended into the environment.
- A feature of the update is the new Village Green that provides a central community space that can also be utilised for larger events and general visitors as a community space. It will provide access to Handlebar Café, the carpark and key trailhead for mountain bike trails, as well as water and power outlets for events.
- Key stakeholders for this plan include key community clubs through the Stromlo Strategic Consultative Committee.
- SFP is addressing visitor needs by providing increased carparking spaces and addressing ~~W~~Health and Safety issues. This includes double parking along Dave McInnes Road during ~~peak visitation periods~~ busy weekends and holidays and during large events, that reduces visitor sight lines and access to the park.
- A sealed carpark surface will also help to address anti-social behaviour evident with some vehicle users spinning wheels on the loose surface.
- SFP unsealed carpark has ongoing erosion with deep ruts and potholes and requires ongoing maintenance budget. Silt run off from the unsealed carpark causes a slip hazard for cyclists on Dave McInnes Road, and blockage of drainage channels that requires regular repairs.
- A sealed cars park will provide ~~delineated-clearly marked~~ car spaces providing ~~optimum-the best~~ use of the space and prevent ~~cars from being blocked in unintentional car blocking~~ and unorganised vehicle movement that potentially creates unsafe situations between vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists.
- We are providing dedicated disabled carparking spaces, and dedicated spaces for longer vehicles.

Commented [SMK2]: Start with a positive overview message about the growth of Stromlo Forest Park as a premier recreation destination – not only for mountain biking but running etc...improving car parking facilities will enable the precinct to grow while ensuring users can access the facilities safely – something along those lines.

SFP is used by runners, cyclists, swimmers, triathletes and equestrians and we're working to make sure all users can enjoy SFP safely.

Commented [SMK3]: The spaces are 10% larger to accommodate bike transport and the need to get bikes off vehicles

Risks and sensitivities

- SFP is managed by the National Arboretum Canberra (NAC) and there is potential for the public to become concerned that SFP will introduce paid carparking, due to the existing NAC paid parking structure. Action: ACT Government has not approved paid parking at SFP.
- Environmental concern for asphaltting the carpark. Action: The asphalted carpark will enable improved stormwater management blended into the environment and reduce car parking

Approved by: Scott Saddler AM Surname, 54056

Action officer: Christine Callen, 54468

Date: August 2022



Communications on a page

Stromlo Forest Park carpark upgrade

Economic Development

29 August 2022

damage to Dave McInnes road's grass verges. The current carpark has no heritage status and the site has prior/existing environmental disturbance, with no new environmental assessment required for the carpark upgrade.

- A possible perception that ACT Government should prioritise the maintenance and building of assets including new mountain bike trails onsite, over constructing a carpark. Action: SFP has a 2016 Masterplan with plans for the implementation of new assets, and endorsement of the SSCC group.
- A perception that the mountain bike community in Canberra is frustrated with the lack of investment into mountain bike riding trails in Canberra in comparison to other States. Action: EPSDD produced a Draft Mountain Bike Report. ACT Government departments (EPSDD, TCCS, Visit Canberra and SFP) is regrouping to review this report.

Questions and answers

- Currently the SFP carpark has budget to construct (pending the development application approval). SFP will not communicate paid carparking fees to the public. Action: Any future proposal to introduce or implement paid parking on the site would need to be considered by ACT Government.
- Should public parking be approved by ACT Government into the future, additional communications plans to be implemented.

Action plan – how will we reach the target audience?

The target audiences are being provided notification of the carpark construction and temporary changes to the site. Questions regarding the project will be directed to the SFP generic email account.

Residents – Weston Creek Community Council and Molonglo Valley Community Forum contacted in August 2022 during development application process. Communication - direct face to face residential community meeting/s

SPF Stakeholders – Stromlo Strategic Consultative Committee contacted in March 2022 during onsite mtgs (they also provided letters of carpark support). Commercial onsite operators – ongoing contractual meetings. Related onsite operators – emails/phone calls

General Public – The ACT Budget papers were publicly released 31 August 2021. The SFP carpark development application was publicly lodged on 22 August 2022.

Communication channels include - SFP Facebook, SFP website and onsite signage at various key circulation points at SFP. Carpark questions will be directed to the SFP generic email account.

Approved by: Scott Saddler AM Surname, 54056

Action officer: Christine Callen, 54468

Date: August 2022

Sch 2.2(a)(xv)

Commented [SMK5]: Suggest expanded Q&A for use with media and also social queries. Also FAQs for the website addressing some of the common comments from social media. – e.g car parks aren't large enough, cuts off access to the trail heads, will make it unsafe... etc



Communications on a page

Stromlo Forest Park carpark upgrade
Economic Development
29 August 2022

Date	Communications collateral	Attachment	Responsibility
31 August 2021	ACT Budget announced with SFP carpark upgrade funding		SFP Mgt team
December 2021	ACT Government Sports and Recreation consultation		NAC Project Officer
March 2022	Stromlo Leisure Centre/YMCA and ACT Property Group, ANU, ICON Water, Evo Energy consultation		NAC Project Officer
22 August 2022	SFP Carpark development application submitted		NAC Project Officer
August 2022	SFP website and Facebook account – carpark upgrade communicated to public.		SFP Events and Booking Officer
August 2022	Handlebar and Dynamic motivation (onsite commercial stakeholders) carpark upgrade communicated.		NAC Business Support Officer
August 2022	SFP Residents – Weston Creek and Molonglo resident groups – SFP offer to present at community mtgs.		NAC Project Officer
August 2022	Public communication - SFP website, SFP Facebook and SFP onsite signage		SFP Events and Booking Officer
Post DA approval	Increased onsite signage post the carpark development application approval, and increased social media and website communication to the general public.		NAC Project Officer

Approved by: Scott Saddler AM Surname, 54056
Action officer: Christine Callen, 54468
Date: August 2022



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Marisa Paterson MLA: To ask the Minister for Economic Development

In relation to: Stromlo Forrest Park (SFP)

1. What consultation has been conducted with the community on the development of the new car park?
2. What balance of normal sized car parks and larger sized car parks to cater for trailers and bike racks will exist in the new car park?
3. Will the new car park be paid parking? If paid parking is considered, what consultation or consideration will be given to the pricing of the parking? What consideration will be given to concerns in the Wright community that the parking wont be pushed down around their streets?
4. Will the 'village green' be developed as park of the car park?
5. Will the Emu Run and ABC Switchback trails be impacted by the new car park?
6. Is the new car park being prioritised over the promised flow trail?
7. When will the Stromlo/Cotter flow trail progress?
8. When will the new contractor come on board for the management of trails at Stromlo? Were there any tangible changes in deliverables in the new contract?

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

This matter falls within the responsibilities of the Special Minister of State. I have consulted with the Minister and can advise that;

1. The plans to upgrade the existing carpark were developed in consultation with the Stromlo Stakeholder Consultative Committee (SSCC), and as identified in the 2016 Stromlo Forest Park (SFP) Masterplan. SSCC members include representatives from the following groups:
 - ACT Equestrian Association;
 - AusCycling;

- Canberra Off Road Cycling;
- Indigenous Marathon Foundation;
- Pedal Power;
- Triathlon ACT;
- We Ride; and
- YMCA Canberra Running Club.

Letters in support of the carpark upgrade have been received from seven of the eight SSCC group representatives, and one group external to the SSCC, the TRI Running Club. Additionally, community consultation was undertaken when the SFP masterplan was developed in 2016, via public survey.

Funding was provided for SFP - Improved Parking as part of the 2021-22 Budget. The Development Application was lodged on the 22 August 2022, and once advertised, further engagement will be available through that process. On 31 August 2022, the upgrade plans were released on the SFP website and social media, as well as being distributed to the SSCC representatives for circulation within their membership bases. SFP have provided plans to the Weston Creek Community Council and the Molonglo Valley Community Forum, with the offer to also attend and present at meetings. There has been no response to date, we continue to reach out.

Additionally, SFP have consulted with the YMCA as the Stromlo Leisure Centre operators and have in principle agreement on the upgrade.

2. All parking spaces are designed to be larger than the average car space by 10% to allow for vehicles with bike racks etc. Circulation spaces are designed wider than standard, and vehicle stops have been removed to provide more car space. There are over 500 parking spaces included in the upgrade. This contrasts with the current arrangement, where the lack of formalised parking spaces generally mean that the car park is at capacity with approximately 350-400 parked cars. There will be a bus turnaround, and designated drop-off / pick up areas, long vehicle parking space, and designated disability parking (currently there is no designated disability car spaces).
3. Any proposal to implement paid parking on the site would need to be considered by ACT Government. The car park upgrade plans have been shared with the Weston Creek Community Council and the Molonglo Valley Community Forum, and we have yet to be contacted for further consultation.

The SSCC have been heavily involved in driving the development of the SFP masterplan, and the proposal of the 'Village Green' as a community and events area.

4. The Village Green is intended to be developed as part of the car park upgrade. The Village Green will provide a multipurpose space for the general community with access to Handlebar Café, carpark and the mountain bike trail head. It will also provide a flexible events space for events, providing an alternative smaller events hub space, helping to future proof the site with increasing visitation.

5. No trails, or the trail head will be affected by the carpark upgrade. Connecting trails will link the trail head to the car parks surrounding paths.
6. The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) is leading a cross-Directorate approach with agencies (Visit Canberra, SFP/National Arboretum Canberra) to assess a pathway forward for mountain biking in the ACT, including ongoing trail maintenance and suggested trail projects such as the Stromlo to Cotter flow trail, and potential future trail development in the Blue Range Precinct. The Stromlo to Cotter flow trail is an EPSDD initiative, with SFP being consulted on the proposals progress. In the Best of Canberra Mountain Bike Experience Trail Report, there are options presented for building a network of world class trails.
7. See response to question 6.
8. The current trail maintenance contractor has been engaged at SFP via a Service Agreement for the past 18 months. The current contract allows more oversight of trails maintenance activities by SFP staff and the contract manager. The current contract also has an emphasis on sound records and data management, allowing for records regarding maintenance work both within and outside of the contract scope to be maintained in Geographical Information Systems.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature: 

Date: 12.9.22

By the Minister for Economic Development, Andrew Barr MLA

From: Stewart-Moore, Karen
Sent: Monday, 26 September 2022 10:13 AM
To: Callen, Christine
Cc: Saddler, Scott; Economic Development Communications and Engagement
Subject: SFP Carpark capital project
Attachments: SFP Carpark capital project.docx

OFFICIAL

Hi Christine

Daniel B shared this with me on its way through – just a few suggestions marked up for consideration. Very happy to discuss.

Let's talk this week about what you need for the Cab sub.

Would you also mind sharing the powerpoint preso you're using for Weston Creek Community Council? Just wouldn't mind being across the content.

Cheers

Karen

From: Saddler, Scott
Sent: Monday, 24 October 2022 6:51 PM
To: Khan, Ahmed; Callen, Christine; Shawcross, Amalie
Subject: Fwd: Clay motion as amended
Attachments: Clay SFP motion (as amended by SMOs).docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

OFFICIAL

For your perusal

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From: Eveille, JamesB <JamesB.Eveille@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2022 5:19 pm
To: Saddler, Scott <Scott.Saddler@act.gov.au>; Bailey, Daniel <Daniel.Bailey@act.gov.au>
Cc: CMTEDD, Economic Development DLO <Sch 2.2(a)(xv)@act.gov.au>
Subject: Clay motion as amended

Hi all

As discussed in the briefing, the SFP motion from last week as amended by the SMOs.

Kind regards

James Eveille – Adviser
Office of Minister Chris Steel MLA
[ACT Legislative Assembly](#)
Sch 2.2(a)(ii)



Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

To:	Special Minister of State	Tracking No.: CMTEDD2022/4927
Date:	24/11/2022	
CC:	Minister for Economic Development	
From:	Executive Branch Manager, National Arboretum Canberra and Stromlo Forest Park	
Subject:	Petition 30-22 Stromlo Forest Park Car Park Changes – Government Response	
Critical Date:	05/12/2022	
Critical Reason:	Sch 1 1.6	

- DDG, ED 28/11/22
- EGM, Ops 25/11/22

Recommendations

That you:

1. Note the information contained in this brief regarding Petition 30-22 lodged by Ms Nicole Lawder MLA;

Noted / Please Discuss

Sch 1 1.6

Agreed / Not Agreed / Please Discuss

Chris Steel MLA/...../.....

Minister's Office Feedback

Background

1. As part of the 2021-22 Budget process, Stromlo Forest Park (SFP) were allocated \$0.343 million for design and \$2.543 million for construction of improved parking at the park. Design was finalised in 2021-22 and the proposed changes were made available to the public on 31 August 2022 via SFP's website, as well as through the Development Application process.
2. 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 impacted. Considerable data was collected on traffic flow, parking behaviour and practical use which have been incorporated into the proposed plans.
3. 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.
4. The Development Application is still in the approval process.

Issues

5. On 18 October 2022, Ms Nicole Lawder MLA lodged petition 30-22 with the Assembly titled 'Stromlo Forest Park Car Park Changes'. The details of the petition can be found here: <https://epetitions.parliament.act.gov.au/details/epet-22-030>.
6. The Clerk Standing Order 100 requires that the Minister respond within three months of the tabling of the petition.
7. The petition raises concerns that the design of the carpark will not be fit-for-purpose, and also about any implementation of paid parking which may lead to increased street-side parking in the surrounding suburbs and resulting crowding.
8. The response to the petition (Attachment A) notes the extensive consultation undertaken, that the design has been developed with carpark users in mind – such as those with equipment to unload and load – and that any implementation of paid parking will be a matter for a decision of Government.

Sch 1 1.6

Financial Implications

11. Nil.

Consultation

Internal

12. Nil.

Cross Directorate

13. Nil.

External

14. Nil.

Work Health and Safety

15. Nil.

Benefits/Sensitivities

16. Any decision to implement paid parking remains a matter for ACT Government consideration. No announcement is expected prior to February 2023. However, should paid parking be implemented in the future, it is important to note that any revenue generated would be directed to SFP's increasing maintenance costs, and to revitalise deteriorating assets and facilities.

Communications, media and engagement implications

17. Nil.

Signatory Name: Scott Saddler Phone: 54056

Action Officer: Ahmed Khan Phone: 54265

Attachments

Attachment	Title
Attachment 1	Assembly Business Paper
Attachment A	Stromlo Forest Park Car Park Changes - Government Response



Chris Steel MLA

Minister for Transport and City Services

Minister for Skills

Special Minister of State

Member for Murrumbidgee

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

From: Welfare, Maggie on behalf of Stromlo Forest Park
Sent: Monday, 6 February 2023 7:22 AM
To: Stromlo Forest Park
Subject: Changes at Stromlo Forest Park - please read

OFFICIAL

Dear Stromlo Forest Park stakeholders and users,

Stromlo Forest Park (SFP) is a premier recreation destination and continues to experience growing popularity, attracting approximately 560,000 visitors each year.

As you may know, in 2021 the ACT Government announced a decision to upgrade the existing SFP carpark to help manage increased visitation and to improve user safety. Construction is expected to start in Autumn and completed by the end of the year (weather permitting). As the works will be completed in stages, SFP will continue to offer onsite parking spaces throughout the construction period.

Once the new carpark is complete, the ACT Government has taken the decision to introduce paid parking at Stromlo Forest Park, with 100% of revenue to be reinvested back into the maintenance and improvement of the park, including the mountain bike trails. A formal media announcement will be made at approximately 10:30 this morning with a Stromlo Forest Park social media post at 10:45am.

This means all funds raised from paid parking will directly contribute to the ongoing development and repairs/maintenance of the park, including new and upgraded trails and facilities.

The parking fees will be modest, and an annual SFP parking pass will be available for frequent users.

Costings for paid parking will be as follows:

Period	Fee
15 minutes	Free
15 minutes to 3 hours	\$1.75
3 hours to 6 hours	\$2.75
6 hours +	\$3.90
Annual pass	\$87.00

This year, the ACT Government will also begin work on a five-year Stromlo Forest Park Trails Masterplan, that will involve public consultation.

This Trails Masterplan will review existing trails and plan for new trails for key site users including runners, mountain bike riders, road cyclists, equestrian riders and the general public.

Information sessions

There will be two user pays information sessions (bookings are essential) held at the Margaret Whitlam Pavilion at the National Arboretum Canberra. These sessions will allow community members to ask questions regarding paid parking.

When:
Wednesday, 8 February at 5:30pm
Monday, 13 February at 4:30pm

Where:

Margaret Whitlam Pavilion, National Arboretum Canberra

Please register your attendance by emailing stromloforestpark@act.gov.au.

More information

For more information, please visit the SFP website. Our website has paid parking frequently asked questions, and we encourage you to read these before sending any enquiries through.

<https://www.stromloforestpark.act.gov.au/about/news-updates/news/paid-parking-at-stromlo-forest-park>.

For more information on the carpark upgrades, go to: <https://www.stromloforestpark.act.gov.au/about/news-updates/news/carpark-upgrade>.

If you still have questions, please send them to stromloforestpark@act.gov.au and our team will endeavour to respond as quickly as possible during working hours (Monday to Friday).

We request questions are emailed directly rather than posted online as SFP does not have staff working across weekends and emails allow more detailed responses.

Regards

Scott Saddler AM

Executive Branch Manager

National Arboretum Canberra and Stromlo Forest Park

Stromlo Forest Park

02 6207 8484

stromloforestpark.act.gov.au

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | **ACT Government**
Forest Drive, Molonglo Valley | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601



From: Welfare, Maggie on behalf of Stromlo Forest Park
Sent: Monday, 13 February 2023 11:07 AM
To: Stromlo Forest Park
Subject: SFP Updates

OFFICIAL

Hi all,

On Sunday, the Criterium track extension was trialled for the final Canberra Try a Tri of the season. By all accounts, the extension was a hit, allowing for a full loop around the park and minimising disruptions on Dave McInnes Road. Additional works and line marking will take place late this week, weather permitting – stay tuned for the official opening!.

A reminder that our second community information session on paid parking at Stromlo Forest Park will be **today at 4:30 at the Margaret Whitlam Pavilion, National Arboretum Canberra.**

We encourage all users who have any questions or qualms about paid parking to please attend to have their questions answered.

These sessions are open forums, and while minutes can be provided upon request, we do require attendees to ask the questions!

This afternoon's session will also be available via Teams for those who cannot make it in person:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NDgxZGUwMDctYzJhNS00ZjE4LTlhYzMtMmQwNzFkN2Y2OGZk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22b46c1908-0334-4236-b978-585ee88e4199%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%220c83defa-d89a-4075-8866-3db38bdc211d%22%7d

Next weekend will see the ever popular Superflow event at Stromlo on the front of the mountain – 25th-26th February. Courses can be found here: <https://rockytrailssuperflow.com/event/stromlo-east-2023/> and shuttle buses won't be running for the weekend.

Shredabilities returns to the criterium circuit on Monday afternoons, as well as crit racing on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Please check out calendar before you ride!

Onsite events, clinics and lessons

We have a number of regular groups who book at SFP, to see all bookings please visit our website:

<https://www.stromloforestpark.act.gov.au/visit/events-and-closures>

Upcoming events include:

Event	Date	Time	Areas affected
Shredabilities	Mondays (recurring)	3:30-6pm	Criterium Circuit (EXCLUSIVE ACCESS)
Capital Region Masters Cycling Criteriums	Tuesdays (recurring)	5-8pm	Criterium Circuit (EXCLUSIVE ACCESS)
Canberra Cycling Club Summer Crits	Wednesdays (recurring)	4-9pm	Criterium Circuit (EXCLUSIVE ACCESS)
Vikings Cycling Super Crits	Thursdays (recurring)	5-9pm	Criterium Circuit (EXCLUSIVE ACCESS)

CORC Dirt Crits	Thursdays (recurring)	4-9pm	MTB Trails
Fox Superflow East	Saturday 25 th February Sunday 26 th February	6am-6pm	MTB Trails

All bookings can be viewed here: <https://www.stromloforestpark.act.gov.au/visit/events-and-closures>

Bookings are encouraged for groups. To avoid disappointment, book early here: <https://www.stromloforestpark.act.gov.au/book>

If you have any questions please contact stromloforestpark@act.gov.au.

Thanks,

Maggie Welfare Stromlo Forest Park Booking & Marketing Assistant
National Arboretum Canberra & Stromlo Forest Park

02 6205 0973 | [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\) | stromloforestpark.act.gov.au](https://www.stromloforestpark.act.gov.au)

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | **ACT Government**
Forest Drive, Molonglo Valley | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601



MS CLAY: To move—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) the Stromlo Forest Park masterplan process began in 2009 with the ACT Government reconfirming its commitment to the 2010 masterplan in 2014;
 - (b) the Master Plan report, issued in 2016, outlined the growing need for an all-weather surface permanent carpark to provide year-round access to the park;
 - (c) an extensive consultation period with the public occurred on the masterplan report in 2015 and 2016;
 - (d) in December 2019, the ACT Government released the *Draft Canberra Mountain Bike Report* for public consultation with the final version of the report published in 2021;
 - (e) on 12 October 2020, Shane Rattenbury MLA, Leader of the ACT Greens, costed an ACT Greens election commitment through the ACT parliamentary budget office to “implement the priority recommendations from the *Canberra Mountain Biking Report*”. This was expected to cost \$700,000;
 - (f) on 14 October 2020, Chief Minister Andrew Barr MLA, costed an ACT Labor election commitment through the ACT parliamentary budget office for “\$1.2 million in a ‘flow’ style trail from Stromlo Forest Park to Cotter Recreation Area with a return climb, [which] will create a link between the two popular recreation hubs. The 13 to 15 kilometre trail will pass through nature reserve enabling riders to experience the unique landscape in the ACT and providing an opportunity for commercial cultural and heritage adventure tours”; and
 - (g) in November 2020, ACT Labor and the ACT Greens finalised the 10th Assembly Parliamentary and Governing Agreement. Appendix 4, item 6.2 of the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement was “Make Stromlo Forest Park a premier mountain biking destination by finishing the Stromlo Park masterplan, implementing recommendations from the ‘Mountain Biking ACT report’ and building a flow trail from Stromlo Forest Park to Cotter”;
- (2) further notes that:
 - (a) some regular users of Stromlo Forest Park do not feel they are adequately and directly consulted with on changes proposed at the park; and
 - (b) investment in mountain biking facilities at Stromlo Forest Park is no longer keeping up with regional mountain biking competitors and the needs of a rapidly growing sport; and
 - (c) there is an existing Stromlo Forest Park volunteer program established in December 2021 which provides opportunity for

volunteers to be engaged directly in the future of the Park, including trail shaping, maintenance and development.

- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) continue works towards the delivery of the \$1.2m Stromlo to Cotter flow trail and the \$700,000 priority *Canberra Mountain Biking Report* recommendations, as per the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement (Appendix 4, item 6.2);
 - (b) develop an overarching trails masterplan to guide infrastructure development over the next five years, in consultation with relevant stakeholders and the mountain biking community.
 - (c) establish a single point of contact for mountain biking within ACT Government where mountain bikers can seek information on the ACT Government's work on mountain biking;
 - (d) expand the Stromlo Stakeholder Consultative Committee to a wider range of mountain biking user groups and the Molonglo Valley Community Forum and engage in further consultation with all users of Stromlo Forest Park at each stage of the masterplan implementation, including the proposed carpark and event space proposal.
 - (e) consider further tourism opportunities associated with investment in mountain biking facilities at Stromlo Forest Park and across the ACT; and
 - (f) update the Assembly on the implementation of the Stromlo Forest Park masterplan and the progress of this motion by the last sitting week in August 2023.



ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

DLO Request Container:
CMTEDD2022/4758

RESPONSE TO DLO REQUEST

*** All information provided should be factual.
Electronic approval at Executive Branch Manager level is required.**

Subject: Stromlo Forest Park Masterplan and Carpark

Consultation on carpark and village green:

- Funding for the upgraded carpark was announced in the 2021-22 ACT Budget. Since then, SFP has undertaken consultation with a range of stakeholders and users of the park, including:
 - ACT Equestrian Association
 - ACT Property Group
 - Sport and Recreation
 - AusCycling
 - Canberra Off Road Cycling
 - Indigenous Marathon Foundation
 - Pedal Power
 - Stromlo Leisure Centre operators YMCA
 - Triathlon ACT
 - We Ride
 - YMCA Canberra Running Club
 - Weston Creek Community Council
- The most recent public forums for the Weston Creek Community Council and Canberra Off Road Cycling group were held in September and October 2022. Over 100 people attended in person/online.
- The carpark upgrade and village green plans underwent public consultation as part of the original SFP Masterplan development (the Masterplan) and more recently, were developed in consultation with the Stromlo Stakeholder Consultative Committee (SSCC).
- Members of the SSCC supported the plans to upgrade the car park, and the Village Green was seen as an important events/community use area to progress other parts of the Masterplan.



- The SSCC comprises of eight key SFP user groups across different sporting interests.
- SFP stakeholders are welcome to contact existing SSCC groups to have their current and future concerns relayed to SFP management at quarterly meetings, and/or general feedback can be sent to stromloforestpark@act.gov.au.
- Feedback on the design of the carpark and village green has also been sought through social media and the SFP website since August.
- The Development Application (DA) for the upgrades has been lodged and will open for broader consultation shortly.

Implementation of the SFP Masterplan:

- The SFP Masterplan was updated and endorsed by Cabinet in 2016.
- The SFP Masterplan outlines the planning framework for SFP. It does not commit this government, or any future government, to provide partial or full funding for any of the identified projects within any specific timeframe. In this context, the progression of any identified projects will be subject to future budget decisions, detailed design, and development approval processes, including appropriate stakeholder consultation.
- Major development initiatives which have commenced include, construction of the Stromlo Leisure Centre, Molonglo District Playing Field planning, carpark upgrades and event village green (WIP), criterium track extension (WIP).

Works completed at SFP since the election and works planned until end of term (2024):

- SFP Criterium Track Extension is currently being constructed and anticipated to be complete in January 2023. There has been a slight delay in works progress due to the heavy rainfall in recent months.
- Subject to funding, the following initiatives are planned to be progressed in the next few years:
 - Development of new tracks and trails infrastructure, including the commissioning of a new trail's masterplan through community consultation.
 - Progression of incomplete masterplan items. This may include the commissioning of consultants to further investigate, analyse and design projects to a 'shovel ready' status. Community consultation would also occur through this process.
 - Development of new equestrian facilities including access, camping facilities, amenities, horse trotting, holding yards and water supply points.
 - Development of a BMX/ Bike Park. A jumping/dirt park will add to the diversification of the off-road cycling experience at SFP.
 - Mountain bike track review.



ACT
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Economic Development

DLO Request Container:
CMTEDD2022/4758

- Playground upgrades.
- New signage across the site to better identify tracks, trails, and other assets.