



**Chris Steel MLA**

Minister for Transport and City Services  
Minister for Skills  
Special Minister of State

Member for Murrumbidgee

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Mr Michael Pettersson MLA  
Member for Yerrabi  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
London Circuit  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Pettersson

Thank you for your letter on behalf of your constituent, Personal information, about the maintenance of the public area at Yerrabi Pond.

I am advised that maintenance of the footpath area immediately adjacent to the shops at Phyllis Ashton Circuit, Gungahlin is the responsibility of the respective lessee.

Concerning the grass bordering the pond, a City Services officer inspected the concerned location and identified that the long dry grass, as referred to, opposite the Yerrabi shops bordering the pond is a native aquatic plant called Typha (Orientalis or Domingensis).

Native aquatic plants such as Typha benefit waterways by improving water quality and providing habitat for a range of aquatic and terrestrial organisms. Their primary functions are to filter sediment prior to stormwater re-entering the river system. They also provide habitat for small birds and aquatic life and protect banks from erosion and slow down overland flow.

Typha can become problematic when it spreads rapidly and interferes with water flows e.g. irrigation lines and inlets/outlets, however, this is not an issue at Yerrabi ponds. At the time of inspection, no weeds were identified within the patch of Typha at the location. Hopefully, this information will help the constituent better understand the important role these aquatic plants play in improving water quality and biodiversity in Canberra's urban waterways.

Similarly, regarding installation of additional bins, I am advised that City Services manages four bins located at the picnic shelter close to the waterfront area. City Services currently do not have any plans to install additional bins near the car park or the shops at this location. The lessees are responsible for their own waste management.

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The ACT Government currently services 1,225 public bins across Canberra up to seven times a week, to facilitate the disposal of waste and recycling in public places. This includes an additional 150 waste and recycling bins installed in high profile and high demand areas to meet the needs of residents and users of public open spaces.

Where no bins are located, it is the ACT Government's policy that people using public open space areas are responsible for taking their rubbish with them and disposing of it in an appropriate manner. Maintaining a clean city requires a whole of community effort and cannot be tackled by the Government alone.

City Services also implements regular litter picking program of parkland and main arterial roads. Litter picking along the main arterial roads is carried out every 4 weeks, town and district parks are cleaned weekly, with shopping centres, including car parks, inspected at least weekly and any litter found is removed.

The ACT Government is very conscious about littering and the negative impact it has on our city's amenity. It is unfortunate that the irresponsible actions of a few can have substantial impact on our city's appearance. The Litter Act 2004 provides a deterrent to littering and City Rangers and ACT Policing can issue on-the spot fines to offenders ranging from \$60 to \$1,000. More information is available at [www.cityservices.act.gov.au/public-land/maintenance/littering](http://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/public-land/maintenance/littering)

Feasibility studies and design work for upgrades and new facilities at Yerrabi Pond and the district park have been completed. The designs include upgrades to toilets and picnic facilities at the district park, a new toilet facility at Bizant Street play space, additional parking in the commercial area and street lighting. The delivery of the feasibility recommendations is subject to future ACT Government Budget processes.

In relation to the constituent inquiry regarding the availability of the PSP designs, Transport Canberra and City Services is presently considering appropriate options for sharing the design detail with the community.

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

Yours sincerely

Chris Steel MLA  
Minister for Transport and City Services  
19 May 2023