



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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### 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

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**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