



ACTLA Select Committee - Community and Industry Groups 14 June 2019

QUESTION ON NOTICE NUMBER 5

The Belconnen Community Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to this item from the Budget Estimates hearing.

In her question at UPT Page 38, Ms Jones asked the BCC if *“built infrastructure that was called on but was not mentioned in the budget – the Government should be providing – where the gaps are in infrastructure”*.

At the time I could not recall anything specific, but later in proceedings I made reference to the Kuringa Drive upgrade that has yet to be considered for funding, noting that the intersection at Owen Dixon Drive has already been funded for signalisation work (although that has yet to be delivered). We also discussed the possibility of infrastructure work being delivered when work begins on developing the CSIRO Ginninderra Field Station site.

To be clear, there is no agreed timeline for development of that site and any beneficial changes to infrastructure would need to be negotiated between CSIRO and their representatives, the National Capital Authority and the ACT Government. My understanding is that there have been very high level discussions between the three stakeholders, there is no MOU in place on these matters and that CSIRO have yet to identify a business/development partner for the site. Any solution to Kuringa Drive being dependent on the site development would mean a significant delay (at least five years if the CSIRO were to announce a partner sometime this year) and therefore not in the best interests of our community.

I will not re-prosecute the case we have made over a number of years on Kuringa Drive, but simply add that we cannot wait any longer for a solution. As the survivor of a high speed motor vehicle accident (that now being greater than 65kph), I know how devastating recovering from the incident can be not just for the victims, but family, friends, medical teams, workplaces and the cost on the community at the scene, can be. Those who witness these horrible events are often adversely affected mentally and physically by a single incident, but when this occurs on multiple occasions then that compounds the impacts on them.

We need to better uphold our responsibilities and duty of care to protect our community from preventable injury or death; risk managing these important roadways has failed and it is time to act.

Similarly, there is a gap in the outcomes for the study conducted on Ginninderra Drive West (from Kingsford Smith Drive to Florey Drive). As mentioned during estimates we are grateful for the upgrade at Tillyard Drive, but that work has put immense pressure on the Florey Drive roundabout/intersection and we have had representations to both Minister Steel (as the responsible Minister) and Minister Ramsay (as the local MLA) about the increased dangers to the community. This is a classic example of an already hazardous intersection for active travellers being amplified when major work is undertaken in another nearby location where risk mitigation is undertaken rather than remediation. Our thanks to local Macgregor resident Mr Garry Robinson for bringing this to our attention and providing government with a sensible solution which we believe should have been part of the initial examination of the feeder roads in the precinct.

As we have previously mentioned, we are always grateful to be heard on these important issues and funding provided over the last five budgets that I have been involved with to continue to keep our District as the “Jewel in Canberra’s Crown”. We believe that if you live, work or play in Belconnen then you belong; but that comes with responsibilities to this community and the wider ACT too.

I hope this provides the Select Committee members with sufficient information for their consideration and once again thank them for the opportunity to represent the interests of our great district to them.

Kind regards,

Glen Hyde
Chair, Belconnen Community Council
25 June 2019
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