



BELCONNEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Building a stronger community

Belconnen Community Council: Evatt local shops upgrades

The BCC is a not-for-profit, government-funded community organisation. The Belconnen Community Council (BCC) is an advocacy group that represents the interests of our members and the community on a range of matters affecting the people who live, work, and play in the Belconnen District.

As the voice of Belconnen for over three decades, with over 100,000 people in our catchment, we are intimately engaged with good and bad processes. We are uniquely positioned to offer observations on what works for all sides of the channels we engage with.

Local shops are more than just commercial entities; they are integral threads in the fabric of a community, contributing to its economic, social, and cultural vitality. By ensuring that these areas are safe, accessible, and aesthetically pleasing, we promote local business and create spaces where our community can come together, connect, and flourish. As such, we welcome the ACT Government's investment in upgrading local shopping centre precincts across Canberra.

The BCC highlights several positive aspects of the preliminary design:

- **Tree Replacement:** The move to replace unhealthy trees in the car park area is a commendable one. This not only aligns with aesthetic enhancement but also promotes ecological responsibility.
- **Landscaping:** The proposed landscaping will uplift the precinct's aesthetic appeal; this could be further enhanced with additional tree planting.
- **Additional Seating:** This would be incredibly beneficial, especially to the elderly and parents or guardians frequenting the nearby primary school.
- **Play Area:** The idea of having a play area is an excellent one, catering to both school-going and pre-school children. It would serve as a recreational space and a focal point of community interactions.
- **Pathway Upgrades:** Enhancing the pathway leading to and from the shops would improve safety and accessibility.
- **Carpark Improvements:** These improvements should alleviate some of the parking pressures during peak times and aid people with disabilities.

However, a longstanding concern among the community, especially our younger and older residents, has been the absence of toilet facilities. While we understand the constraints of budgeting, we believe that toilets would be an essential addition, particularly given the



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introduction of a play area. Inclusion of such facilities would stand testament to the government's commitment to equality, inclusion, and accessibility.

The BCC looks forward to further engaging with the relevant stakeholders of this project to promote the best outcome for the community.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lachlan Butler".

Lachlan Butler

Chair

Belconnen Community Council

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