



BELCONNEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Building a stronger community

Belconnen Community Council: Draft Urban Open Space Land Management Plan

The Belconnen Community Council (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 to the ACT Government 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.

The BCC welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft Urban Open Space Land Management Plan. Additionally, we commend the ACT Government for the extended consultation period from May to August 2023 and the presentation given to the BCC.

Canberra is valued for its urban open spaces and the associated range of social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits provided. As noted in the draft plan:

As Canberra's population grows and there is an increase in urban densification there will be a growing demand for quality public urban open space, particularly in medium/high density development areas where access to private open space is limited. It is important that high quality public spaces are provided that are accessible, safe and meet the changing needs of the community.

Achieving this will require strong collaboration across government. The BCC recommended during the consultation of the draft *Territory Plan and District Strategies* that it must contain a clear framework outlining how effective ongoing collaboration across the ACT Government will be achieved as a priority. This recommendation is equally applicable to this plan. Achieving meaningful progress will require partnership rather than siloed activities, and the community must know who in government is responsible for delivering specific outcomes.

While the BCC supports the twelve principles underpinning this plan and the objectives describing what the plan wants to achieve, the strategies providing the framework to accomplish these objectives require further detail. This includes implementing the above recommendation and detailing timeframes and responsibilities in a format that is transparent and promotes accountability to the community.

The BCC looks forward to further engaging with future consultations and discussions.

Kind regards

Lachlan Butler
Chair

Belconnen Community Council

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