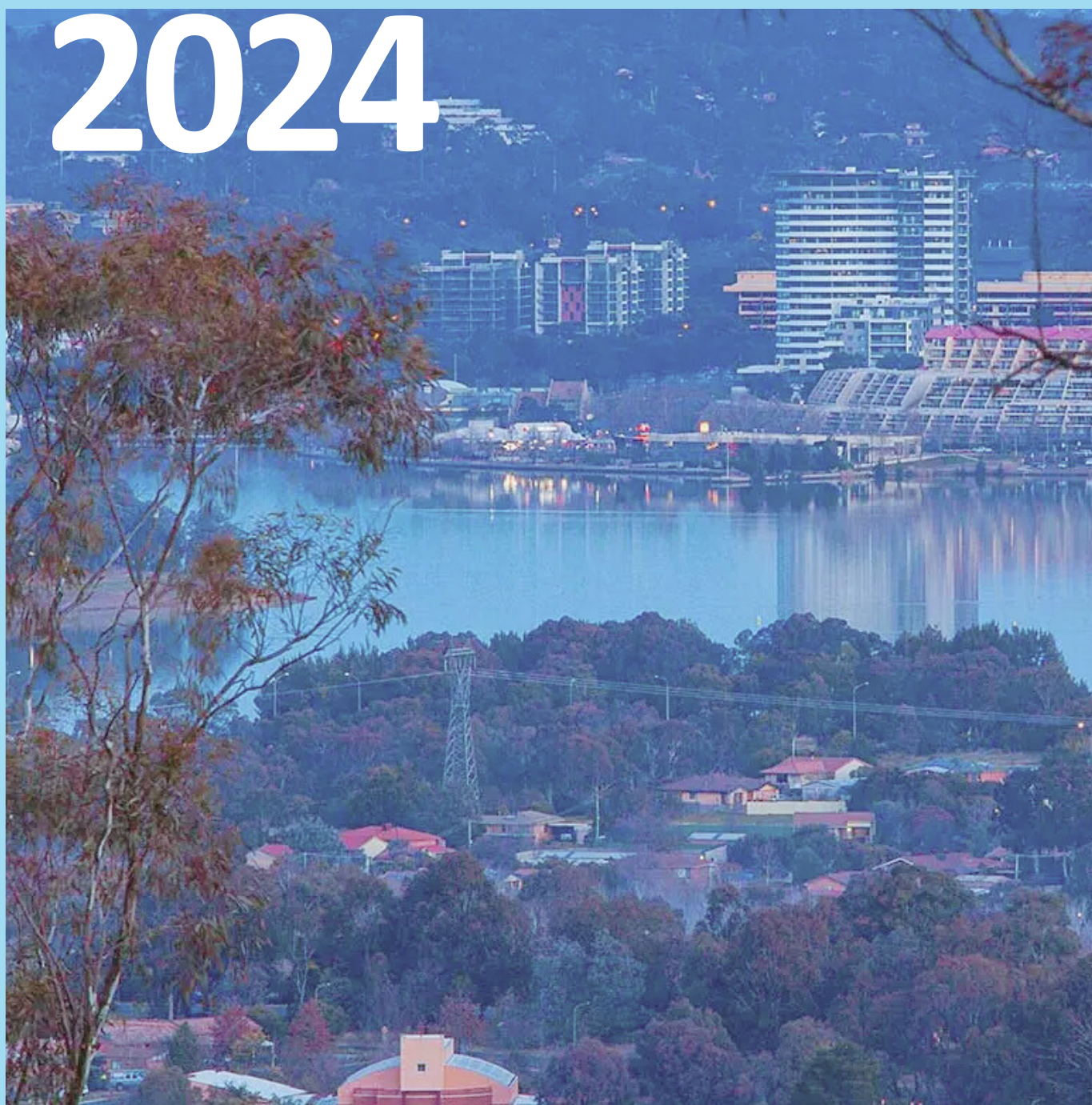


BELCONNEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY AND TRADITIONAL OWNERS

In the spirit of reconciliation, the Belconnen Community Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We further acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ACT GOVERNMENT FUNDING SUPPORT

Supported by



ACT
Government

The Belconnen Community Council receives support and funding from the ACT Government.

ABOUT THE BELCONNEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Belconnen Community Council Incorporated (ABN 47 379 243 769) is a non-political, volunteer-driven organisation. We aim to be at the forefront of advocating for, and promoting the sustainable development of, the Belconnen region on behalf of its residents, students, workers, businesses and leaseholders.

MEDIA AND GENERAL ENQUIRIES

The Belconnen Community Council welcomes comments on this report. If you have feedback or enquiries about any aspect of the report, please contact us via:

Phone: 0438 458 220

Email: hello@belconnen.org.au

Mail: PO Box 1131, Belconnen ACT 2617

Digital copies of our publications, including this report may be found at: www.belconnen.org.au

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CHAIRS REVIEW

I am pleased to present the 2023-24 annual report as Chair of the Belconnen Community Council (BCC) where we reflect on what has been a busy and transformative twelve months since our 2023 Annual General Meeting.

In undertaking our work for the year, the BCC concentrated on three key areas: strengthening engagement, enhancing advocacy, and modernising the association.

Our engagement efforts included public meetings across the district in both in-person and hybrid formats, featuring presentations from developers, town planners, ACT policing, government officials, and researchers. We further distributed surveys, maintained our social media presence, and hosted a successful pre-ACT election candidate forum.

Our advocacy work included substantial submissions to the ACT Government on district strategies, territory planning, and the territory budget.

We achieved notable success in highlighting critical issues, particularly for a primary school in the Belconnen Town Centre. Additional advocacy focused on the Hawker Village precinct, retention of Canberra Stadium in Bruce, and community engagement for the Wallaroo Solar Farm project.

The BCC has modernised its operations by launching a new website, new constitution, digitising historical records, migrating to Microsoft for not-for-profits, and updating our visual branding. These improvements strengthen our ability and capacity to engage with Belconnen and government across traditional and digital channels.

Looking forward, the BCC is well-positioned to engage with government on recent election commitments and conduct expanded community consultation. As the ACT's most populous district, Belconnen must receive appropriate services, infrastructure, planning, and environmental support.

We remain committed to being an even stronger voice for our community on these topics in the coming year. If you would like to be a part of that, I encourage all Belconnen residents and businesses to reach out with ideas, questions or concerns.

Finally, as a volunteer-led organisation, I would like to extend my deep gratitude to our committee, members, and supporters for their dedication, as well as to the ACT Government and local politicians for their ongoing support. It was a big year, and I'm looking forward to what the next has in store.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lachlan Butler". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Lachlan" and "Butler" being capitalized and prominent.

Lachlan Butler
Chair



ORGANISATION OVERVIEW

MISSION

To empower and unite the Belconnen community through active advocacy, inclusive engagement, and dedicated support, ensuring our region thrives as a vibrant, safe, and sustainable place to live, work, and enjoy.

VISION

Helping shape a Belconnen that leads through strength in community, richness in culture, and commitment to innovation and sustainability in the interests of our people.

WHAT WE DO

Representation and Advocacy: We actively voice community concerns and contribute to discussions on urban planning, infrastructure enhancements, transport, safety and environmental stewardship.

Community Engagement: Through meetings, forums, and surveys, we facilitate active participation and keep the community informed and involved in local developments and issues.

Support and Collaboration: We collaborate with local organisations and groups to promote and support community projects and events that bolster our collective identity and cultural vibrancy.

2023 - 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Candidates Forum

As an election year, a centrepiece of the BCC's work was our Ginninderra Candidates Forum (the Forum), which took place at the University of Canberra, Bruce, on September 29.

The event was a significant success, attracting over 100 in person and online attendees, and featured 20 candidates running for the upcoming ACT election.

The Forum was structured in two sections – a structured question and answer session for all, and a 'break-out' roundtable session where the community could speak directly with candidates in greater detail on topics that mattered most to them.

We were able to live-stream and record the first section, and share that through the BCC digital channels, ensuring accessibility for those unable to attend in person.

The positive feedback and strong turnout reflected the importance of providing spaces for dialogue between residents and their representatives, and we were pleased that the Forum showcased our role in facilitating meaningful engagement.



Attendees

100+



Candidates

20



Spence Turns 50

The BCC welcomed the opportunity to support the community in hosting the Spence turns 50 event held on 27 October 2024.

The BCC provided organisational support and guidance, as well as covering the event with the BCC's public liability insurance. With over 250 people attending, it was a great day to celebrate the Spence community by the Spence community.

Belconnen Youth Forum

We partnered with Capital Region Community Services to pilot a new youth survey and forum. It is our hope to establish a platform that can provide Belconnen's youth an opportunity to voice their views and concerns that may help inform our advocacy.

Planning work has been undertaken, including the design of the survey that is ready to launch in early 2025. The survey will be followed by a mid-year forum to discuss the survey results and share their perspectives with community leaders and government stakeholders. Following the forum, our partnership will report to the ACT Government on the outcomes and opportunities identified.



Submission on the 2024-25 ACT Budget

The BCC made a submission to the 2024-25 ACT Budget consultation process and the BCC was the only community council to go before budget estimates.

The BCC presented five key priorities, as well as recommendations across the responsibilities of the ACT Government. A number of these were adopted by ACT Labor, the ACT Greens and the Canberra Liberals in their election platforms.

New website and systems

Over the course of the year, we undertook a significant refresh of our website and technologies.

We acquired the belconnen.org.au domain and developed a new website that addressed security concerns and provided a modern look to build trust with users.

The updated site features a streamlined navigation system and supports better mobile-friendly browsing, and features integrations for enhanced communications and pages to share the publications and ongoing work of the BCC.

Buttressing these efforts has been our adoption and migration to not-for-profit services from Microsoft and Google. These services are enabling improved collaboration and communication for the committee and as we progress an ongoing digitisation project, they are providing safe and secure storage of committee records spanning more than two decades.

COUNCIL STRUCTURE

AS AT 1 NOVEMBER 2024:

Chair Lachlan Butler	
Deputy Chair Keiran Stroh(from 27 February 2024) Adele Sinclair (till 27 February 2024)	Secretary Keiran Stroh (acting from 27 August 2024) Susan Buckland (28 May 2024 till 27 August 2024) Eben Leifer (till 28 May 2024)
Treasurer Chris Gingell	Public Officer Charles Thomas
Committee members	
Matt Watts Martha Kinsman Eben Leifer (from 29 May 2024) Keiran Stroh (till 27 February 2024)	Susan Buckland (till 28 May 2024 and from 27 August 2024) Maree Pavloudis (till 25 September 2023) Aimee Castrission (till 27 January 2024)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

* INCOME SUMMARY

The Belconnen Community Council acquires the bulk of their income from ACT Government grant funds.

The full income report is available in the appendices.

Opening Balance **\$7,579.60**

Income **\$13,263.30**

Expenditure **\$12,096.93**

* 23/24 AUDITOR REPORT

The Income and Expenditure statement was produced by our voluntary Treasurer and has been audited by an independent financial practitioner. The Auditor Report is available in the appendices.

Assets **\$2,098.70**

Liabilities **NIL**

APPENDICIES

Appendix A – Deed of Grant compliant Annual Report
for 2023-24

Appendix B – Audited Financial Statements



BELCONNEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Building a stronger community

Belconnen Community Council - End of Year Report - 2023-24

Community Council Name:

Belconnen Community Council Incorporated

Council objectives/ Mission statement:

Our role is to foster Belconnen's community identity and be a strong voice for the community.

Highlights

Our activities have focused on facilitating consultation processes with government and private stakeholders, while preparing the BCC for our post-covid activities moving forward.

- We distributed information from government and non-government stakeholders on key projects within Belconnen District.
- We gave evidence at two Legislative Assembly Inquiries, including:
 - Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2023-2024 (2023-2024 Budget Estimates)
 - Inquiry into the Territory Plan and other associated documents
- We provided submissions and been an active community stakeholder through multiple processes, including:
 - 2024-25 budget consultation
 - ACT Planning System Review and Reform Project
 - Kippax Fair redevelopment
 - Woolworths consultation on Hawker Village
 - The Wallaroo Solar Farm proposal
 - The campaign for a Belconnen Town Centre school
 - Belconnen Bus Transitway
- The BCC has shifted its AGM from September to November, but the Chair's AGM report can be provided or found on our website following this.

Representative engagement

The BCC uses various channels to engage with the community. We hold monthly public meetings. In 2023-24, these meetings have shifted to a hybrid (online and in person) format. The BCC uses social media channels, surveys, and our mailing list to communicate with the community.



BELCONNEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Building a stronger community

Regional community engagement challenges and opportunities

BCC is committed to genuine and inclusive engagement with the Belconnen community. To this end, we have sought to overcome a number of community engagement challenges and continue to test new approaches. Of note is the low number of suitable community facilities across the region for holding community meetings. It is very difficult to find rooms available for hire in the evening that have wheelchair accessible rooms with AV equipment and internet access for providing hybrid meeting access. This makes it difficult to provide meetings in areas outside of the Belconnen Town Centre and to ensure that both in-person and online attendees are able to hear and participate equally.

From 2020-2022, due to COVID-19 restrictions and community concerns, BCC delivered all meetings online.

In 2023, meetings were delivered as hybrid meetings. Despite thorough setup and planning, each meeting had technical issues where online participants could not hear in-person speakers, and in-person attendees could not hear online participants. This could be resolved through the purchase of in-room AV equipment (microphones and amplifier/speaker) and dedicated equipment for online meetings (laptop, speakers, etc). These purchases are beyond the scope of existing BCC income or savings. Additional ACT Government financial support for these purchases would assist BCC in resolving these issues for 2024. The BCC made an application to the 2023-24 Technology Upgrade Fund Grant Program but was unsuccessful.

Additional focus was on establishing new consultation processes which will bear fruit in the next financial year.

Council engagement activities

In 2023-24, the BCC undertook two letterbox campaigns to notify residents of our online surveys seeking resident input on issues of concern in their area. The first was to over 4000 homes with a link to an online survey to residents in Hawker, Weetangera, Page, and Scullin to gather community views on Hawker Village and the consultation then being undertaken by Woolworths. The second was to residents in Lawson.

The BCC undertook a social media advertising campaign to promote our survey on what the community wanted in the 2024-25 ACT Budget.



BELCONNEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Building a stronger community

The BCC has gone through a website refresh to make it clearer to the community what we do, and how they can be involved.

Ten (10) public meetings were held throughout the 2023-24 financial year on the third Tuesday of each month (apart from January and December) at 7pm.

Each meeting was attended by multiple MLAs, with Tara Cheyne MLA, Jo Clay MLA and Peter Cain MLA consistently attending and providing MLA reports.

The meetings provide a forum for presentations to be made by various government Ministers and MLAs, ACT government representatives, property developers and other stakeholders in the Belconnen community, and for feedback to be gathered and actioned by members of the BCC committee.

We aim for positive and constructive dialogue at all meetings. We are delighted that representatives from the ACT Government, developers, and other organisations active in the community have asked to return on multiple occasions to present at our meetings. We regularly receive feedback from presenters that the feedback from community attendees has been useful input for their planning.

Notification of public meetings is communicated through the BCC website, BCC mailing list, and our Facebook page. Members of the public are invited to ask questions and engage with the committee and presenters at all meetings.

These meetings range in their attendance from 10 attendees to 50-60 depending on the nature of items on the agenda. They average between 20-30 attendees.

Summary of Meetings

18 July 2023

This meeting was held online and included the Chair's report, MLA updates, and presentations on Macnamara Neighbourhood 2, Belconnen Village on Walder (Block 5, Section 22, Belconnen), and the Hawker Woolworths consultation. The meeting concluded with a discussion on general business, specifically the petition to build and maintain Canberra's cycle network, presented by Pedal Power.



BELCONNEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Building a stronger community

- 15 August 2023 The meeting was held online and included the Chair's report, MLA updates, an update on the Indicative Land Release Program and Suburban Land Agency projects, a presentation of Linq Stage 2 Redevelopment in Block 14, Section 45 Belconnen, and a discussion on general business.
- 19 September 2023 The September meeting was also the BCC's AGM and took place both via Zoom and in the community room at the Belconnen Library. The meeting included the Chair's report, the Annual General Meeting which covered the Chair's Annual Report, Auditor's Report, and the Election of Committee Members, MLA updates, a presentation on public transport in Belconnen by PTCBR, and concluded with general business. This meeting saw an increased attendance of around 40 attendees.
- 17 October 2023 This meeting was held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Belconnen, with an option to attend online via Zoom. The meeting included the Chair's Report, MLA Updates, and the presentation of concept plans for the Lathlain Street development by JWLand. The meeting concluded with a session of general business. Planned presentations on the Belconnen Trunk Sewer work by Icon Water/Diona, and on Lawson Stage 2 by the Suburban Land Agency were rescheduled due to presenter unavailability.
- 21 November 2023 This meeting was held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Belconnen, with an option for online attendance via Zoom. The meeting included the Chair's Report, MLA Updates and a general Belconnen Infrastructure update provided by TCCS. Presentations that were rescheduled from the October meeting including updates on Belconnen Trunk Sewer work by Icon Water/Diona and information about Lawson Stage 2 by the Suburban Land Agency took place at this meeting. The meeting concluded with a session of general business.
- 20 February 2024 This meeting was held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Belconnen, with an option for online attendance via Zoom. The meeting included the Chair's Report, MLA Updates and a presentation on Lawson Stage 2 provided by the Suburban Land Agency.
- 19 March 2024 This meeting was held online and included the Chair's Report, MLA Updates and a presentation on the PEET Bruce Concept Master Plan by Purdon Planning.
- 16 April 2024 This meeting was held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Belconnen, with an option for online attendance via Zoom. The meeting included



BELCONNEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Building a stronger community

the Chair's Report, MLA Updates and a presentation on the Belconnen Green Waste Facility and other Infrastructure Updates by TCCS.

21 May 2024

There were two meetings on this date. The first was an SGM held in the Belconnen Library where the Belconnen Community Council moved to adopt a new constitution that was in line with the new model rules. Following this, our public meeting took place both via Zoom and in the community room at the Belconnen Library. The meeting included the Chair's Report, MLA Updates and a presentation on the 'Connect Up' pilot for social connection in Belconnen and Bruce

18 June 2024

This meeting was held at The Link in Strathnairn, with an option for online attendance via Microsoft Teams. The meeting included the Chair's Report, MLA Updates and a Belconnen Policing update provided by the ACT Police.

Future activities

The BCC will continue to engage the community and the relevant ACT Government agencies. Our future activities are focused on expanding our engagement with the broader community to ensure we are as representative as possible in our advocacy efforts.

- We will expand on the activities we undertook that underpinned our consultation for our 2023-24 and 2024-25 budget submission to expand on our submission for the 205-26 budget submission.
- We are implementing a plan to celebrate the Belconnen district's 60th birthday in 2026.
- We have partnered with Capital Region Community Services to deliver a youth survey and forum like the Tuggeranong Community Council.
- We will host a Ginninderra candidates forum for the 2024 ACT Election in September 2024.

We appreciate the financial support and access to government provided to us by the ACT Government, and we will continue to provide a safe and respectful meeting environment to encourage participation by all in our community.



BELCONNEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Building a stronger community

Acknowledgment

The Belconnen Community Council receives
support and funding from the ACT
Government

The above screenshot is from the footer of our website which appears on every page.

We have provided links to our social media and website for any documentation you wish to examine:

- www.belconnen.org.au
- <https://www.facebook.com/belcouncil>



BELCONNEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Building a stronger community

BELCONNEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL INC

FY ending 30 June 2024 - Opening Balances:

Bank Balances B/F

Savings	7,111.73	
Visa	416.29	7,528.02
Cash (banked 14/9/23)	51.58	<u>7,579.60</u>

Income

ACT Government Grants	13,000.00	
Interest	11.72	
Reimbursement	251.58	<u>13,263.30</u>

Expenditure:

Storage King	2,560.00	less refund	
210.00	2,350.00	Insurance	
	1,896.80		
Lap Top & Accessories	1,487.95	Cable	40.00
1,527.95			
Phone & Accessories	1,042.88		
Advertising	847.32		
Telstra	744.00		
Printing	692.47		
Google	566.80		
Wordpress	501.60		
Zoom	442.68		
Room Hire			
Library	187.50		
Church	200.00	387.50	
Survey Monkey		384.00	
Chair Travel Expenses		280.18	
P.O. Box		233.00	
IT Services		225.00	
Facebook		201.83	



BELCONNEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Building a stronger community

Refund Overpayment (Pavloudis) 200.00 Go Daddy
71.85

Refund Payment	51.58		
Net Registry	19.50		
Vodafone	120.00		
less refund	690.01	-570.01	<u>12,096.93</u>

OPENING BALANCES + INCOME – EXPENDITURE
8,745.97

Balances @ 30 June 2024

Savings	7,901.57	
Visa	844.40	<u>8,745.97</u>

Outstanding Invoices- none

Non-monetary assets

Value @ 30/6/2023 \$2,000.00 written off

Register of Assets at 30/6/2024

Desc.	Date	Purchase Value	Current Value
Lenovo S5 Pro Laptop		\$1,300.00	\$1,040.00
Samsung Galaxy S23 128GB	9/9/2023	\$ 998.37	\$ 798.70



BELCONNEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Single expenses over \$500.

Supplier	Product	Cost	Date of Invoice	Purpose
JB HI FI	Samsung Galaxy S23 128GB	\$998.37	9/9/2023	Phone used as the contact for BCC
JB HI FI	Lenovo S5 Pro Laptop	\$1,300.00	15/2/2024	Laptop used to coordinate BCC activities and run BCC meetings

All other expenses within the 'expense categories' were under \$500



Belconnen Community Council - Statement by members of the committee

In the opinion of the Committee, the provisions of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 that apply to the BCC in relation to the 2023-24 financial year have, to the best of the members' knowledge at the time of lodging the statement, been complied with for:

- the preparation of the annual statement of the association's accounts
- the reviewing or auditing of the accounts and the presentation of the required statement at the annual general meeting.

The attached financial report presents fairly the financial position of the Belconnen Community Council as of 30 June 2024 and its performance for the financial year. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Belconnen Community Council will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due. This statement is made in accordance with the resolution of the Committee.

