

## **Belconnen Community Council – Peter Cain MLA – Recent MLA update**

My work in early 2026 has focused on campaigning for the renewal of community recreational facilities, including the Hawker Tennis Centre and the Big Splash waterpark.

Both facilities are under a Crown lease that designates the land for the sole purpose of public sport and recreation. However, in recent years, both have fallen into a state of disrepair and have become centres of illegal and dangerous activity. The Hawker Tennis Centre, in particular, is located within 500 metres of a school and is frequently visited by school children.

To raise awareness of this, I joined representatives of the Hawker Weetangera Neighbourhood Watch to sponsor a petition calling for the termination of the Crown lease so that the land can be returned to proper community use. The petition remains open until the 24th of March, and continued community support through signing the petition is the most effective way to bring about change.

In addition to my focus on community facilities, I have written to a number of Government Ministers regarding issues raised with me by my Ginninderra constituents. These issues include the state of public housing across Ginninderra, the shortage of short-term respite care centres, and tree-maintenance concerns. These matters have a significant impact on individual wellbeing, and I am proud to have continued my advocacy on a case-by-case basis.

I have now finished doorknocking in Hawker and have moved into Charnwood. I have been struck by the warm reception I have received on doorsteps. Community members have alerted me to the deteriorating state of public footpaths and vegetation. I also joined the Liberal Leader, Mark Parton, at the Page Tavern, where I listened to a range of ordinary Canberrans discuss the issues they care about most.

I made a speech in the Assembly regarding the poor condition of many road signs across the electorate. These signs are worn, graffitied and damaged, posing a danger to all road users. I have called on the Government to address this with urgency.

Finally, I have listened to community feedback regarding the Labor Government's changes to the R2/R3 bus lanes. These changes have dramatically increased travel times for commuters across Ginninderra and are symptomatic of the Government's broader disregard for the needs of suburban Canberrans. I will continue to advocate for comprehensive community consultation on the impact of changes to our bus network.