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Member for Yerrabi

Minister for Health

Minister for Transport and City Services

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Ms Caroline Le Couteur MLA

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Dear Ms Le Couteur *Caroline*

Thank you for your emails of 23 February and 30 March 2017 about municipal services in Molonglo Valley. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

I would like to reassure you that the ACT Government applies the same levels of service standards to the public realm across the city. The Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) Directorate is currently responsible for the management and maintenance of approximately 56.5 ha in the Molonglo Valley.

Within the suburb of Coombs there are a number of land custodians due to the ongoing development. As indicated in your correspondence, TCCS is one of these and as such maintain the public land once it has been handed over to the Territory. The Coombs map at Attachment A denotes land custodianship, including areas under consolidation, areas belonging to TCCS, and unshaded areas that are either land managed by the Land Development Agency (LDA) or private developers. Public open spaces in new suburbs that are still being developed remain the responsibility of the developers for up to 26 weeks after installation. At the end of the consolidation period land and assets are handed to TCCS to inspect and maintain to the required service level standards.

Recent maintenance works undertaken by TCCS within Coombs include an intensive clean up of Coombs Pond B and surrounding open spaces, much of which is still under development. In September 2016, North Weston Pond was re-sown to improve the grass cover for soil stabilisation and recreational activities. Spraying is currently underway to control blackberry that is regenerating across the public realm due to the large seed bank present. The amenity weed control program is typically undertaken twice per year around log bollards, the path network, garden beds and other public assets.



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In regard to mowing and litter picking, the public open space is litter picked and mown every four weeks within the suburb and five weekly along arterial roads during the peak grass growing periods and every three months at other times of the year. Re-mulching of the garden beds is programmed as part of the autumn/winter maintenance program.

Pedestrian and cycle paths in the public realm are generally swept twice annually and additional cleaning, such as the removal of broken glass, is undertaken as required.

In regard to playgrounds, the ACT Government undertakes a playground inspection and preventative maintenance program to mitigate risk from equipment failure and assesses soft fall levels against safety standards at Canberra's playgrounds. Regular safety inspections are conducted at Canberra's 507 playgrounds, with approximately 26,000 playground assessments being completed annually. General maintenance and repairs are undertaken at the time of inspection, while any major work is programmed to be undertaken as quickly as possible. Annual audits are also undertaken by an independent assessor against Australian Standards for safety.

In reference to the maintenance of the nature strips, it is accepted practice that maintenance of nature strips is carried out by the adjacent lessee. This includes single unit dwellings, and bodies corporate. Where there are concerns with the maintenance of nature strips, details of locations can be reported to Access Canberra on 13 22 81 or Fix My Street on the TCCS website at www.act.gov.au/fixmystreet and the resident or developer will be notified and encouraged to maintain their verge accordingly.

TCCS has a watering program in place for newly planted trees, but is aware of a number of small trees in the Molonglo area which have not survived due to the extraordinary hot and dry conditions experienced over summer. Failed trees managed by TCCS are replaced as part of annual tree planting programs. Reports from residents about specific cases where trees have died and need replacement are of great assistance in planning replanting activities. Requests for replanting can be lodged via contacting Access Canberra on 13 22 81 or via the Fix My Street online service accessible through www.act.gov.au/fixmystreet.

TCCS is currently undertaking an optimisation study of street sweeping services. The current program will be revised based on the findings from the study and will include scheduled sweeps of all new suburbs. In the meantime, the street sweeping of Molonglo Valley is being undertaken reactively.

The main road, John Gorton Drive, is programmed to be swept four times per year during March, June, September and December.

The black tubes referred to are actually sand and aggregates wrapped in a sock to filter sediments entering the stormwater system, and are called sediment traps. They are placed early in the process of construction works and are removed at the end of substantial building when activities are completed. The same applies to the tubes referred to in your email. TCCS will continue to work with the relevant parties, Environment Protection Agency and building/development companies, to arrange for the removal of the sediment traps once they are no longer required.

A condition of development approval for the estate requires measures to be put in place during the works to protect the stormwater catchment. Silt socks (the black tubes) are one such measure. Approval has recently been granted for the removal and cleanup of some sediment control measures in Coombs and the Land Development Agency anticipates a number of areas around the silt socks will be attended to in the coming weeks.

Thank you for raising the matters. I trust the information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Meegan Fitzharris MLA
Minister for Transport and City Services

11/5/2017

Layer List

Layer Visibility

- PACS ParkAccess
- PACS ParkAssets
- PACS LakeAssets
- Lake Assets
- PACS Sportground
- Parks and City services Mowing
- PACS RuralPicnic
- PACS Amusement
- PACS HorsePaddock
- PACS Estate
- The PCL Estate
- Urban Open Space
- UOS
- UOS In Consolidation
- UOS Not Yet Handed Over
- UOS Maintained by Developer
- PCL Managed Shopping Centres
- Nature Park and National Park
- Forest
- Urban Lakes and Ponds
- Inland Water Area
- Unleased Territory Land Managed by PCL
- land stewardship layers

PACS Reference Map

