



ACT Government

**2025–2026 Budget Consultation**

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Dear Chief Minister

**Request for improvements to Hackett**

The Hackett Community Association (HCA) welcomes the opportunity to participate in the 2025-26 Budget Consultation process.

The HCA requests that the ACT Government provide the following works to improve community facilities in our suburb.

**Background and rationale**

**Tables for parks**

Hackett is well served with open spaces such as the adjacent Mt Majura Nature Reserve, as well as five parks scattered across the suburb - Tyron St-Mackenzie St, French St, Caldwell St, Gilruth St and Bragg St. There is also the Hackett Oval and adjacent space at both ends.

For the 2020-2021 Budget Consultation, the HCA requested the provision of picnic tables in each of these spaces. In 2020, the ACT Government kindly provided tables in the Gilruth and Bragg St parks. These tables have proved very popular with residents of all ages who use them to have a picnic, or just sit and talk with friends.

Hackett has seen an increasing number of young families move into the suburb in recent years. According to the 2021 Census, the Hackett community has changed as follows:

- total population increased 7% from 2,991 in 2016 to 3,227 in 2021;
- the group aged 0-19 years, increased from 757 in 2016 to 875 in 2021, or around 27% of the total population.

Informal observations around the suburb by members of the HCA, note an increase in the numbers of parents, and grandparents, accompanied by children visiting these parks. The Hackett Oval is also very popular with residents exercising by themselves, or with their dogs, as well as sporting groups using it throughout the week.

**Request - the provision of picnic tables in the Tyron St-Mackenzie St, French St and Caldwell St parks and at the southern end of the Hackett Oval.**

**Play equipment, Bragg St Park**

In 2022, the Bragg St Park Volunteers applied for a *Nature Play Program* Grant to provide additional nature play elements in the park. But the Urban Parks area could not support the application as the existing play equipment does not meet the *ACT Government RECREATION FACILITIES - MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE Standards 21* released in September 2021.

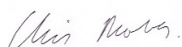
Specifically, they must be no closer than 20m to streets. The swings meet the criteria, but the rocking bike is less than 6m from the edge of Bragg St and the slippery dip 13m. The

swings are 21.7m. At the time, Urban Parks did not have the budget to relocate these items.

In 2023-24 the group received a grant from the Dickson Tradies Club to develop a plan to provide additional play elements and to make the existing play equipment in the park compliant with the recreation facilities guidelines. The volunteers have been raising funds to go towards provision of some of these play elements. The group provided the plan to Urban Parks which they provided general support. However, again they did not have funds to make the existing equipment compliant. Until the existing equipment meets the guidelines, the group cannot proceed with any elements of the plan.

**Request - the government makes the existing equipment compliant with the recreation guidelines and instal all or some of the additional play elements as described the plan.**

We look forward to receiving favourable consideration of this submission.



Yours sincerely

Chris Mobbs

Chair

Hackett Community Association

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