



ACT Government
2020 – 2021 Budget Consultation
budgetconsultation@act.gov.au

Dear Chief Minister

Provision of metal picnic tables in five parks in Hackett

The Hackett Community Association (HCA) welcomes the opportunity to participate in the 2020-2021 Budget Consultation process.

Hackett is well served with open spaces such as the adjacent Mt Majura Reserve, as well as five parks scattered across the suburb - Tyron St-Mackenzie St, French St, Gilruth St, Caldwell St and Bragg St. Each of these have play equipment and chairs but no tables.

The provision of tables would make these places more attractive for people of all ages to visit e.g. to have a meal or just sit and talk. This would be consistent with the ACT Government's <https://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/BetterSuburbs> which includes improving open spaces in suburbs. Residents are more likely to use the full facilities of these parks or simply enjoying the open space – such activity will improve the health of people by getting them out and enjoying the natural environment.

The suburb of Hackett is seeing an increasing number of young families move into the suburb in recent years. According to the 2016 Census, the population of Hackett was 2,991, of which 629 were children aged 0-15 years, or around 21% of the population. Informal observations over the past year around the suburb by members of the HCA, suggest an increase in the numbers of parents pushing prams with very young infants, often accompanied by children under 5 years of age. There are also increasing numbers of older children who use the parks to meet and socialise and need more than a set of swings and slides.

The HCA has discussed with officers from the ACT Government, about the provision of a wooden table in the Bragg St park, similar to those currently in Haig Park. However, the officers said that as this park was close to a bushfire area, there was a risk that embers could land and start a fire in the park. As such they would not support the installation of a wooden table. The parks in Tyron-Mackenzie St and French St may fall under this same category, whereas the Gilruth and Caldwell parks would be very unlikely to be impacted by bushfires or embers.

Noting the limitations of table types due to fire risk, and that wooden tables may be more prone to vandalism (e.g. people carving names in the wood), the HCA would like to see the installation of metal tables in each park.

The HCA has researched such tables available in the ACT and notes that Ulrich Aluminium manufactures 2 metre long tables with seats at around \$800 plus GST. These come in a kit form <http://www.ulrichfabrication.com.au/product/standard-setting/>.

Five tables would cost a total of \$4,000 plus GST. Some of the parks (Bragg and Gilruth St) have *Urban Park Groups* who would be agreeable to assembling the tables and fixing them in position. These groups would also monitor them and if necessary undertake routine cleaning of them.

We look forward to receiving favourable consideration of this submission.

Yours faithfully

Chris Mobbs

Chair
Hackett Community Association

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PO Box 644 Dickson ACT 2602