



R I V E R V I E W  
G R O U P

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7 May 2025

## Drake-Brockman Drive Upgrades Petition

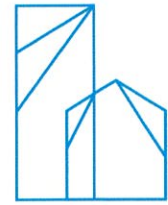
Dear Simon,

I have been informed of recent correspondence with our team regarding Drake-Brockman Drive, including concerns raised by the Conservation Council's Biodiversity Working Group and the petition launched on Friday, 2 May. While I'm disappointed by the decision to proceed with a petition given our open and concerted dialogue on the topic, I appreciate your openness in informing us before its launch and respect the Council's advocacy role.

As stated in my letter to you on 7 February, we appreciate your ongoing commitment to conservation efforts in the ACT and the important work undertaken by the Conservation Council to protect our natural environment. We also value the strong relationship we have shared with the Conservation Council ACT Region for over a decade and recognise the collaborative efforts made over the years to balance urban development with environmental conservation. This balancing act is one that we have considered since Ginninderry's inception by scrutinising every initiative under our Project Vision's triple-bottom-line framework of assessing sustainability from an environmental, economic and social lens.

As we discussed when we met in February, the purpose and prior consideration of the Drake-Brockman Drive upgrade works are summarised below:

- The upgrades are essential to provide safe access for vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians as Ginninderry and the surrounding West Belconnen community grow.
- Ginninderry is funding and delivering these works on behalf of the ACT Government.
- Environmental impacts were assessed and approved under the 2017 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act approval. It was acknowledged that some low-quality box gum woodland would be lost, which was offset through the establishment and ongoing management of the Ginninderry Conservation Corridor.
- Acknowledging that 510 trees will be impacted. Initial findings, which will be further scrutinised during the detailed design phase, highlight that 26 trees are 'high quality' and none 'exceptional'. Whilst noting that most



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existing trees are small or immature, we will regenerate the corridor with at least the same number of trees.

- We have engaged with the Drake-Brockman Drive Residents Group since 2015, resulting in key commitments, such as a service road for safer access, safer road crossings, retention of the National Trail and the existing walking trail.
- Stage 1 was completed in 2018, and Stage 2 was approved by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate in December 2024.

Following public notification and subsequent approval in December 2024, your letter in January 2025 regarding concerns triggered further engagement with conservation groups, including Ginninderra Catchment Group, Higgins Landcare, Friends of Grasslands, Belconnen Community Council, Voices of West Belconnen, Ginninderry Conservation Trust and Conservation Council ACT. Together, we agreed to a collaborative process during the detailed design phase that, so far, has resulted in an agreement from TCCS to reduce the traffic speed limit to 60 km/h, which allows the reduction of the overall road width and intersection land take. AECOM – the detail design consultant – is now assessing the environmental opportunities this reduction will bring, and we will table the revised design with the aforementioned group at the next detail design workshop in late May or early June. In addition, we agreed to work collaboratively on the future planting and landscaping opportunities. Noting this and our work with the community on this project since 2015, I was disappointed to see in your recent email that you felt there were limitations with the engagement process.

Ultimately, we welcome the conservation communities' continued input and hope this collaboration continues to deliver strong environmental and community outcomes. As your concerns have been raised with other stakeholders, we'll also share this response with TCCS, the Conservator, relevant Ministers, and publish a copy on our website.

We will be in touch regarding a date for the detailed design presentation and future workshops. However, if you have any other questions in the meantime, please contact me on 0404 829 048.

Yours sincerely,

**David Maxwell**  
Managing Director