



Dear Friend,

Greetings and salutations! Spring has sprung. Congratulations for getting through another Canberra winter (even if it didn't feel as bleak, wet and cold as I remember they used to be...).

The Tuggeranong Tribune's second edition has some news and gossip about: the extremely upsetting collapse of the **Tuggeranong Ice Sports Facility project** (disastrous), how every Tuggeranong suburb now has an **automatic external defibrillator** (good), the few Assembly **committee reports** that have dropped (chin-scratching), and the beginning of **Operation Formal Wear 2026** (good) and formal consultation about the **upgrades to Erindale Shops** (interesting). I've also got some updates about the status of the anti-theft **entry gates at Woolworths South.Point** (distrustful frown) and the **Monaro Rock quarry** proposal (same).

Commitment Tracker

ACT Labor's 2024 *Plan for Tuggeranong* had 67 commitments to our community. Nearly halfway through my first term in the Assembly, **57** of those commitments have been funded, are in progress or are complete. I am committed to holding the ACT Labor Government accountable for delivering on those commitments. You can track progress on each commitment through the [Live Commitment Tracker on my website](#).

Please keep telling me your ideas, concerns and suggestions for Tuggeranong when we meet out and about, at a street stall, by phone ([02 6205 4466](tel:0262054466)), via email (taimus.wg@parliament.act.gov.au), or on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). My duty is to make sure Tuggeranong gets the interest and investment we need and deserve.

Brindabella

Tuggeranong Ice Rink

There are many people in Tuggeranong who will be extremely angry and deeply disappointed by last week's announcement that an Ice Sports Facility will not be built in our Town Centre. I am one of them.

In 2022, the ACT Government committed \$16.265 million to the project. It also made land available in the town centre. Unfortunately, delivering the facility depended on the project's private partners being equally committed to Tuggeranong. I am not a member of Cabinet and was not involved in, or briefed on, why the commercial negotiations collapsed. However, I suspect the final proposal differed significantly from the original public proposal and sought more than double the public funding. We would have paid much more and received much less.

Regardless, there is no getting around the actual, emotional and symbolic impact of this decision. People are gutted. Tuggeranong citizens, ice sports participants, families and supporters have advocated for a state-of-the-art facility in Tuggeranong for years, and many will rightly feel let down.

At the same time, Tuggeranong still needs significant investment in community sports facilities. Minister Steel has announced that the Government will redirect the equivalent \$16.265 million towards delivering and upgrading other sporting infrastructure projects in Tuggeranong. It is essential that this funding delivers tangible benefits for local sporting organisations and the wider community, sooner rather than later.

This funding presents an unprecedented and unique opportunity for Tuggeranong sporting organisations to put forward their priorities for investment. If you have ideas about how this money should be spent, I want to hear them. **I have launched a [Community Sports Infrastructure Survey](#) so that you can share your priorities.** This will mean I can tell the Minister for Sport exactly what Tuggeranong has asked for.

Last week, I provided Minister Steel with a preliminary list of short and medium-term options drawn from my conversations with local residents and sporting clubs over the past three years. I am also inviting Tuggeranong sporting organisations to participate in roundtable discussions so they can share their priorities, ideas and infrastructure needs directly with me.

You can read the letter from Minister Steel to me [here](#).

You can read my preliminary options letter to Minister Steel [here](#).

You can read my statement on the Tuggeranong Ice Sports Facility decision [here](#).



Checking out some of the new AEDs across Tuggeranong!

StreetBeat AED Rollout Complete

I am very, very pleased to report that rollout of StreetBeat Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) across Tuggeranong is complete!

Publicly accessible AEDs save lives during cardiac emergencies by dramatically improving survival outcomes when used early. The rollout has delivered additional emergency response capability throughout our suburbs.

In October last year, I moved a [motion in the Assembly](#) calling on the Government to work with St John Ambulance ACT and its partners to expand the rollout of publicly accessible defibrillators across the Territory. I'm pleased to see that work continuing and this initiative is a great news story that demonstrates what can be achieved when community organisations, local advocates and government work together toward practical outcomes.

Murrumbidgee Country Club Irrigation Replacement Project

I recently attended the first sod-turn of the Murrumbidgee Country Club's Irrigation Replacement Project. The Club was successful in receiving \$1,100,000 from the ACT Government's 2026 Community Sport Facilities Program for irrigation redevelopment.

This co-investment between the Club and the ACT Government will secure the long-term sustainability of the course (so it can ruin good walks for many more years to come), improve water efficiency and support one of Tuggeranong's major recreational and sporting facilities.

Government investments like this don't grab headlines, but maintaining and improving community sporting infrastructure is important if we want local communities to thrive.



Turning the sod at Murrumbidgee Country with Chris Bailey (President), David Pennell (Director of Course), Scott Elias (General Manager), and the Minister for Sport and Recreation Chris Steel.

ACT Legislative Assembly

Committee Work

The Assembly has filled the winter sitting recess by undertaking and/or completing a number of inquiries and releasing some significant reports, not least among them the Legal Affairs Committee's report into the Bail Law Amendment, the Estimates Committee's report into the 2026-2027 ACT Budget, and the report from the Select Committee on ACT Fiscal Sustainability.

I was a member of all those committees and recommend their reports to you for some gentle after-dinner reading. They should start a conversation about the best way of navigating these social and financial headwinds, if nothing else!

Here are the links to some of the Committee inquiry reports that I have been involved in over the last couple of months:

[Report of the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-27](#)

[Final Report - Inquiry into the Fiscal Sustainability of the ACT](#)

[Inquiry into barriers and opportunities for participation in community sports in the ACT](#)

[Inquiry into the Bail Amendment Bill 2026](#)

[Inquiry into possible contempt of an Assembly Committee](#)

[Inquiry into Legislation on proposed firearms reform](#)

[Inquiry into Crimes \(Coercive Control\) Amendment Bill 2026](#)

The View From The Streets

Operation Formal Wear 2026 has kicked off!

Let's just accept it - most of us reading this are not going to be invited to a Yr 10 or Yr 12 formal any time soon. And that's OK.

But plenty of younger people (with knees that can dance) are beginning to think about what they might wear, and formal outfits are much more expensive now than they used to be.

Enter the **Tuggeranong Lions Club**. Operation Formal Wear is a fantastic initiative that helps young Canberrans access clothing for school formals and other important life events, ensuring cost is not a barrier to participation. The effort relies heavily on community donations and dedicated volunteers who generously give their time.

We'll feature this initiative again closer to the end-of-year formal season, but in the meantime, I encourage anyone with suitable clothing (formal dresses, sharp suits, heels, and dress shoes) to consider donating. Apparently, Y2K is trending right now so the very...loose-fitting (almost-but-not-quite Gordon Gecko-style) Hugo Boss suit I wore to my Yr 10 (Stromlo High, 199: Racecourse) and Yr 12 (Lake Tuggeranong College, 1999: Convention Centre) formals would be perfect for an uber stylish young man in 2026.

You can find out more on the [Operation Formal Wear Facebook page](#).



Visiting Lauren at the Lions Youth Haven in Kambah where they are preparing for Operation Formal Wear

Woolworths Tuggeranong Entry Gates Update

Two weeks ago I held a meeting with representatives from Woolworths Group's head office about the new (trial) gates at Woolworths South.Point.

A significant number of community members have raised their serious concerns about the gates' negative impacts on accessibility, customer experience, emergency egress, as well as their broader implications.

Would you believe that there are 18 (!) Woolworths stores across Australia trialling the new gates. Three of those stores are in the ACT. Woolworths said they are gathering holistic feedback from each of the trials which will inform their next steps.

Woolworths claim the gates provide greater front of store control. They also claim that results are already being seen – I am interested to see this data for myself if and when it becomes available. Given the strong community interest, I think it would be helpful for Woolworths to release this data.

In response to some of the concerns I've raised, Woolworths have been consulting with various peak bodies and advocacy groups (an assistance animal training group for instance) to better understand the impact of the gates and to seek advice on their operation.

Woolworths agreed to provide me with a factsheet about what groups they are consulting with (and what about). I also requested a briefing of how the decision-making process from Woolworths will look from here on out.

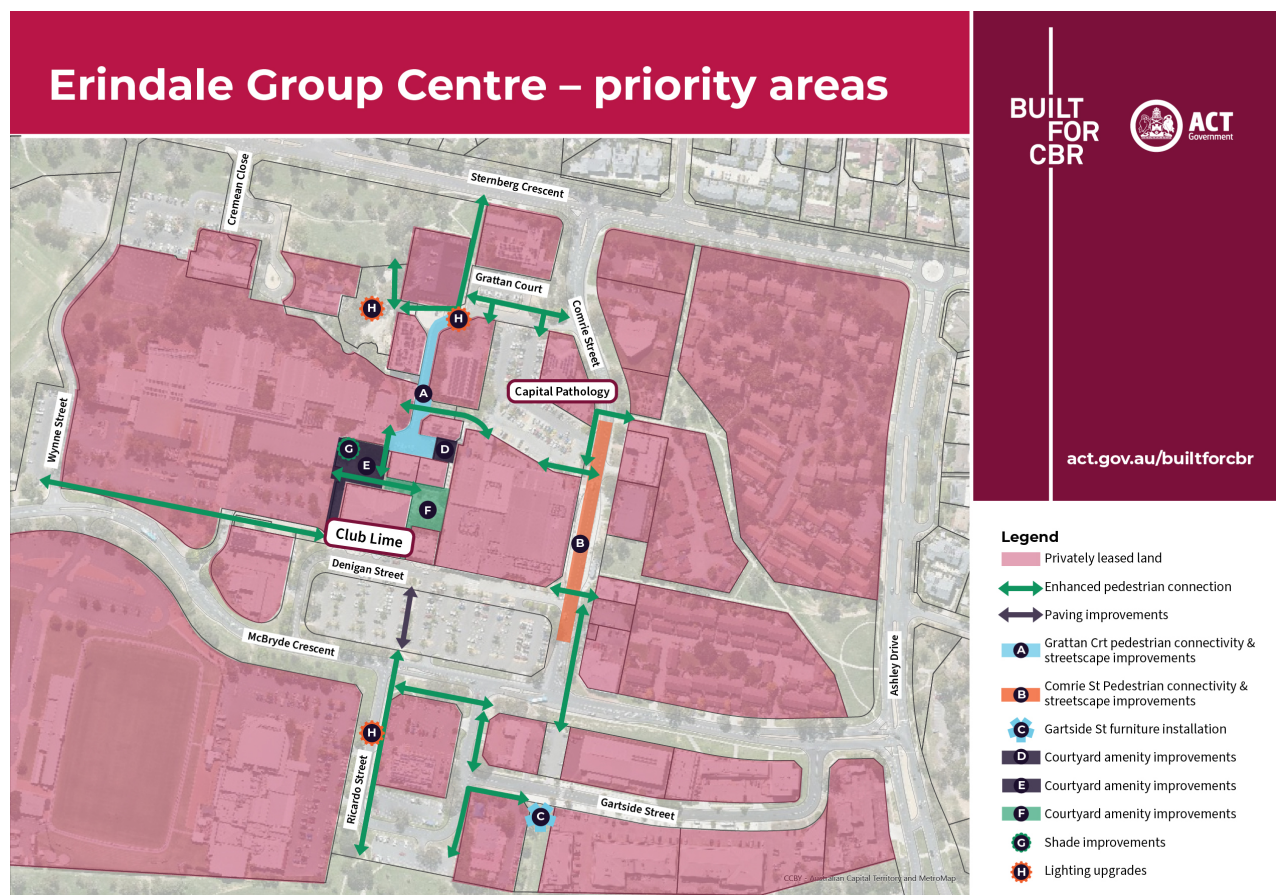
That information has just arrived. I will report back in the next newsletter.

Erindale Shops' Public Spaces Upgrades

The ACT Government has begun consultation on which improvements to public spaces at Erindale Group Centre should be prioritised. Nobody understands how a place functions better than the people who use it every day.

As one of Tuggeranong's major community hubs, Erindale plays an important role for local businesses, sporting groups, students and residents. Where should the allocated \$2.6m in funding be spent, and on what?

I have given the Government the results of the community survey I carried out in Erindale-adjacent suburbs over summer, but if you have further or improved ideas, **please complete the priorities survey before 25 September [here](#).**



Any other business?

Monaro Rock Development

The developer behind the proposed Monaro Rock project has responded to community feedback received during the New South Wales planning process. You can read it [here](#).

Their response marks another important stage in the assessment process and follows significant engagement by residents on both sides of the border. I am very impressed by the work and persistence of Tuggeranong residents on this issue. The Minister for Planning and I are following it very closely.

It is critical that such a large and controversial (at best) planning proposal like this considers local concerns and ensures community voices are heard and considered.

Community Groups: Please Reach Out

One of the most rewarding parts of being your local MLA is meeting the volunteers who make Tuggeranong such a people-first community.

Whether you're part of a sporting club, school community, charity, community association, service club or local organisation, I want to hear about the work you've done, you're doing, and plan to do.

I may not always be able to solve every problem, but if there is a way you think I can assist, advocate, connect you with the right people or help raise awareness of your cause, let me know and I'll crack on with trying! My details are taimus.wg@parliament.act.gov.au, [0494 106 717](tel:0494106717), and [02 6205 4466](tel:0262054466).

Thank you again for reading my September eNewsletter. Together, we're making Tuggeranong an even better place to live.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Taimus Wong', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA

Member for Brindabella

PS. Know someone who might enjoy my regular updates? Feel free to forward this email and invite them to subscribe [here](#).



Authorised by Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA for ACT Labor

Our mailing address is:

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Taimus Werner-Gibbings acknowledges the traditional custodians of country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. He pays his respects to them and their cultures; and to

Elders both past and present.

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