



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Standing Committee on Environment,
and Planning

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into the Role and Future of the Woden Town Centre in the context of a compact city

Submission number: 028

Submitter: Andrew Dempster

Date authorised for publication: 28 August 2025

From: LACommitteeEnvironment@parliament.act.gov.au

<LACommitteeEnvironment@parliament.act.gov.au>

Sent: Sunday, 17 August 2025 11:20 PM

To: LA Committee - Environment <LACommitteeEnvironment@act.gov.au>

Subject: Inquiry submission - Role and Future of the Woden Town Centre - Andrew Dempster

Full Name and/or Organisation:	Andrew Dempster
Email address:	[REDACTED]
Physical address:	[REDACTED]
Phone number:	[REDACTED]
I understand that I cannot share my submission until the Committee publishes it.:	Yes
Consent for Publication - please select one:	I accept that the Committee may publish my submission, including my name, on the Assembly website.
If you want your name removed, or your submission to remain confidential, please tell us why:	
Social Connectivity - What would make Woden Town Centre a more welcoming place to meet and socialise with friends and family? :	I feel it is already a great and welcoming place to meet.
Social Connectivity - What types of events or activities would you like to see more of in Woden? :	As a runner I enjoy parkruns, 5km volunteer-run events held every Saturday at 8am in 9 locations across Canberra. Work is underway to bring a new parkrun to the Woden town centre. That will be excellent and long overdue. Woden is the only district in Canberra that does not have its own parkrun. It's time.
Housing - Do you think there is enough social and public housing in Woden to meet community needs? Why or why not?:	I don't have any expertise on this so can't really comment.
Housing - What improvements or changes would you suggest	Keep it coming please! Woden Town Centre is a great place for people to live and work. The development of Woden Town Centre as a residential precinct is long overdue. Frankly it

for housing in the Woden Town Centre?:	should have happened twenty years ago. The scale of buildings going up in the town centre seems appropriate. The level of ambition we are seeing from developers, and being approved by planning authorities, is good.
Employment and Economic Activity - What types of businesses or services would you like to see more of in the Woden Town Centre?:	The short answer is "all types". More mixed use please so that the lower floors of residential towers can have businesses and services at their feet. Really up to the market to figure out what businesses work best in the town centre.
Employment and Economic Activity - How could the dining and entertainment options in Woden be improved?:	Again, more mixed use so that restaurants and cafes have options to move in. More residents mean more demand for food businesses. And locals from surrounding suburbs like Curtin, Lyons, Garran and Chifley can also make use of new dining options.
Health, Education and Community Services - Are health, education, and community services in Woden accessible and sufficient for your needs?:	A new Woden Medicare Urgent Care Clinic would be great, the sooner the better please.
Health, Education and Community Services - What additional services would you find valuable in the area?:	As above
Public Spaces - How could Woden's public spaces be improved to ensure they are inviting and safe for everyone?:	I must say I don't consider them unsafe now.
Community Facilities - What recreational or cultural facilities do you think are missing in the Woden Town Centre? :	Reopen a pool please. I feel 25 metres will be fine. We never really made much use of the 50 metre pool when it was open but it's good to have a swimming option.
Transport and Accessibility - What would you do to improve access to and around the Woden Town Centre? :	NA
Other Comments - Do you have any other ideas or	It's great that finally Woden Town Centre is growing and people are moving in to live there! This feels about twenty years

comments about the future of Woden Town Centre?:	overdue! More mixed use please to bring more cafes, restaurants and services to Woden.
Would you be interested in speaking to the Committee about your experience at a public hearing?:	No