



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: 072

Submitter: Fleur Horan

Date authorised for publication: 16 October 2025

From: Fleur Horan

Sent: Tuesday, 16 September 2025 11:33 AM

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

Subject: The role and future of Woden town Centre

I would like to advocate improved access to Woden Town Centre. The area is too difficult to access by road, parking is impossible, and if using bus transport there's no front door!!! What would be the motivation for going there/ The shopping centre is empty and uninviting. Brisbane and Hobart have more variety and quality product on offer.

Ideas were requested for an improved Town Square and canvased years ago. The resulting improvements were temporary. The wind tunnel problems have increased and there's no attempt at presentation, stimulation or community involvement as building heights increased and tree height lowered. Why go there? Empty in soul and community.

The library has been diminished in access, events, and now isolated by empty more concrete surrounds!

Sporting facilities are open emptiness. Would a family go there to kick/bounce a ball? The pool is earmarked for downsizing with limited access for an already privileged group of citizens. Green space has been covered by concrete and now more trees are to go. The frogs that used to provide background sound at the pitch and Putt facility are moving on. The red rumped parrot numbers are decreasing.

Where is an Arts centre? A thriving vibrant centre for ideas, discussion, music, arts, discourse? The Woden Senior Citizens centre crouches in ill attended programs run by hard working enthusiastic individuals but unknown and unattended? Un appreciated Do folk living in the new high rise appartments want to even see the poor quality kitchen and badly ventilated toilets? They gather used books for fundraising and store their spoils on tatty chairs in inappropriate lighting.

Woden has lost its facility, it's coherence, it's identity, it's ambience, it's community. The new constructions seems to be cutting through and isolating us from thriving and surviving well.

I see fragmentation ahead and as we extend high-rise construction onto footpaths, waterways into green smeared concrete drains, and hollow out quality and community service then we are creating the slums and crime scenes of a future fear- filled citizenry.

I won't be here to see it, but is it a future for families and the next generation?

Fleur Horan