



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: 081

Submitter: David and Mandy Wheen

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From:

Sent: Wednesday, 24 September 2025 10:56 AM

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

Subject: Re: INQUIRY INTO THE ROLE AND FUTURE OF WODEN TOWN CENTRE

AMENDED SUBMISSION

The Woden Town Centre was designed and built for a significantly different community to that which currently exists and, more importantly, will exist in the years to come.

The demographics of the community it serves are rapidly changing.

From a community in which people overwhelmingly lived in detached housing, in suburbs where entertaining was homebased or very local, where shopping was done from local or regional centres to one where, now, large numbers of people are living in forests of apartment blocks and in homes where recreational access is limited in small garden plots. And increasing numbers are retired residents who have time and the desire to spend time in the wider community.

Further, the nature of work is changing. With many workers physically isolated in their homes for long periods and needing comfortable places, easily reachable, where they can casually socialise. In the past residents gained much their sense of community from their local environment, from their local school, from their local church. Now they need a central amenity which will contribute to providing a sense of community and belonging.

One which is a transport hub, which has access to shopping and commercial facilities, which provides a safe venue for community events for all ages during the day and evening and an environment where one can catch up with a friend or two and just while away the hours.

The Centre needs to be physically attractive to attract shoppers to sustain local commercial activity, it needs therefore to be on a human scale and to the maximum extent include nature – trees/shrubs and facilities built to take account of our changing climate. It should desirably lead into nearby community facilities such as educational (CIT), recreational (Phillip Pool and oval) and hopefully a future decent multi purpose indoor recreational/cultural centre.

The current Centre is largely a passage way through which people transit. It needs to be developed as a Centre which people will want to visit in its own right and be a hub off which other amenities would lie.

We have the space and an existing infrastructure to build upon. It needs to be brought to life.