



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: 061

Submitter: Julie Hamilton

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From: LACommitteeEnvironment@parliament.act.gov.au

To: LA Committee - Environment

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

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Full Name and/or Organisation:	Julie Hamilton
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:	n/a
Social Connectivity - What would make Woden Town Centre a more welcoming place to meet and socialise with friends and family? :	- An arts/cultural centre for plays, live music, art exhibitions etc, preferably in the same precinct as the library and a community centre (for meetings, exercise classes etc). - An outdoor dining precinct which isn't on a road or carpark. - Parklands, eg naturalised Yarralumla Creek connecting the town centre and Edison Park.
Social Connectivity - What types of events or activities would you like to see more of in Woden? :	Plays, live music, art exhibitions; community exercise and art classes; an indoor 50-metre pool for exercise and leisure swimming; a multi-sports facility for basketball, pickleball and futsal.
Housing - Do you think there is enough social and public housing in Woden to meet community needs? Why or why not?:	Of course there isn't. Governments haven't invested in public housing. I have seen so much government housing in southern Woden Valley sold off in the 30+ years I've lived here.
Housing - What improvements or changes would you suggest for housing in the Woden Town Centre?:	I meet many people aged 55-70 who want to downsize but stay in the Valley. Instead of cramped apartments in towers they want 'missing middle' housing options - smaller developments, community facilities, small or courtyard gardens, close to public transport and health/retail/exercise/cultural facilities. Future housing in the town centre should prioritise that need, as well as social housing.

Employment and Economic Activity - What types of businesses or services would you like to see more of in the Woden Town Centre?:	nothing to add
Employment and Economic Activity - How could the dining and entertainment options in Woden be improved?:	By incentivising development of: an eating precinct which isn't on a road or carpark, e.g. 'activating' Woden Town Square and West Plaza with cafes with outdoor dining; an arts/live music venue (I'm only aware of a corner in a sports bar in Bradley St for live music); entertainment options like ten pin bowling and pitch and putt (which we lost years ago).
Health, Education and Community Services - Are health, education, and community services in Woden accessible and sufficient for your needs?:	I avoid the town centre so I access health services elsewhere, but it's important for people who use public transport to have access to medical and health facilities in the town centre.
Health, Education and Community Services - What additional services would you find valuable in the area?:	I can't comment on community services but a youth centre would give young people a focus, potentially 'joined up' with the skate park and a sports/aquatic centre. Why do CIT students have no parking in the new building? Marist College students in Pearce have access to unlimited, free street parking which causes traffic disruption/congestion to local residents. I think this is grossly unfair.
Public Spaces - How could Woden's public spaces be improved to ensure they are inviting and safe for everyone?:	More trees in the town square. Cafes etc to activate the town square & West Plaza to make them safer (more foot traffic). Leveraging Westfield's lease conditions to ensure cafes are 'outward facing' onto these public spaces? The naturalisation of part of Yarralumla Creek could make the town centre/Edison Park/skate park precinct alignment more connected, inviting and safer.
Community Facilities - What recreational or cultural facilities do you think are missing in the Woden Town Centre? :	- An arts/cultural centre - A community centre - An outdoor dining precinct which isn't on a road or carpark - Parklands, eg naturalised Yarralumla Creek connecting the town centre and Edison Park - Multi-sports centre - Aquatic centre
Transport and Accessibility - What would you do to improve access to and around the Woden Town Centre? :	I use the bus whenever possible because the roads are such a convoluted mess. The new bus interchange is even further way from shops, library and health centre than it used to be, so I worry about accessibility for older people or people with disability.
Other Comments - Do you have any other ideas or comments about the	It used to be a 'designed' town centre. Development is piecemeal, towers dominate, community facilities have

future of Woden Town Centre?:	been taken away. It makes me frustrated and sad to see Woden town centre without a proper plan for the future.
Would you be interested in speaking to the Committee about your experience at a public hearing?:	No