



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: 073

Submitter: Name withheld

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From:

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

Subject: Increased Noise Levels

To whom it may concern

With the increase in building heights and apartment density, noise levels have risen substantially due to sound reflecting off hard surfaces. While strict environmental laws exist to regulate vehicle emissions, there appear to be far fewer restrictions on the decibel levels cars and motorbikes are permitted to emit.

The introduction of “acoustic tunnels” around Woden, combined with what seems like haphazard planning by the ACT Government, has only made the problem worse. This is no longer just a minor inconvenience—it is becoming a genuine quality-of-life issue. If higher-density living is the long-term plan for Woden, then safeguards must also be put in place to protect residents’ wellbeing.

Other jurisdictions have implemented practical measures, such as signage requesting the use of air brakes to minimise noise and noise-activated cameras—similar to speed cameras—that detect and record excessively loud vehicles. These types of solutions could be part of the answer here.

In short, more thought needs to be given to the liveability of high-density areas in Woden. Without stronger rules to reduce noise pollution, the benefits of urban consolidation risk being undermined by an unacceptable decline in residents’ quality of life.

Regards