



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

## Answer to question taken on notice

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Asked by: Ms Fiona Carrick MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Redirected to: Minister for the Public Service

In relation to: Community facilities and Community Centre in Woden

Hearing: 11 December 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 78-79

Transcript provided: 22 December 2025

Answer Due: 6 January 2026

**MR CHRIS STEEL MLA:** took on notice the following question(s):

**MS CARRICK:** It is a much better location, but there was one there. New community centre, well, we had one. Like, for Woden Community Service, there was that little—you know, it was not great, but behind the Chemist Warehouse was where they were located. Now they are scattered, they do not have one. You mentioned a new community centre, building one, but we have heard

**THE CHAIR:** Fiona, is there a supplementary question?

**MS CARRICK:** —that you are looking at leasing one off the private sector. Are you going to lease one off the private sector or are you going to build one?

**Mr Steel:** That is a matter that is within Minister Stephen-Smith's portfolio, but the finding is there for a community centre, and a range of options are being explored for the delivery of that centre. Just in relation to, sorry, I forgot to answer the question around passive surveillance.

**THE CHAIR:** Can you take on notice where it is up to?

**Mr Steel:** I can take it that on notice and ask Minister Stephen-Smith her response.

**Mr Andrew Barr MLA:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Government is considering all available options to deliver the Woden Community Centre. Alongside the option to build a new community centre on Callam Street, the Government is exploring alternative delivery models.

Infrastructure Canberra (iCBR) released a Registration of Interest (ROI) to organisations that closed on 19 December 2025 and anticipates releasing a Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) regarding a leased option for an alternative location and building for a community centre in the

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Woden Town Centre in early 2026. The REOI responses will inform future decisions about the delivery methodology and timing for the new community centre.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

Signature: 

Date: **22.1.26**

By the A/g Minister for the Public Service, Mr Andrew Barr MLA