



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: 043

Submitter: Josephine Bryant

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From: LACommitteeEnvironment@parliament.act.gov.au

To: LA Committee – Environment

Date: Thursday, 21 August 2025 10:47:07 AM

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

Full Name and/or Organisation:	Josephine Bryant
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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:	
Social Connectivity - What would make Woden Town Centre a more welcoming place to meet and socialise with friends and family? :	Outdoor spaces and parkland, with open garden recreation areas with trees, greenery and most importantly, water areas. The push towards intense urban infill driven by developers and poor planning, has created an oppressive, claustrophobic and crowded vertical landscape of towers, with little/no green space and recreation areas. Good planning offers proportionate recreation/housing space/ ratios.
Social Connectivity - What types of events or activities would you like to see more of in Woden? :	Open parkland with a waterway that enables picnics and family/ friends gatherings and possibly music / entertainment events. Family oriented sports and recreation facilities including an outdoor pool with picnic areas and green space to relax and enjoy the day, such as provided by the existing Phillip pool and its surrounds.
Housing - Do you think there is enough social and public housing in Woden to meet community needs? Why or why not?:	I support social and public housing however would be concerned not to have social housing blocks / concentrations such as Melrose Gardens (?) and areas that previously existed, which created unsafe areas and ghettos for the residents themselves and the surrounding local population.
Housing - What improvements or changes would you suggest for	Mixed housing and far less one/two bedroom apartments which are inadequate spaces for families or downsizing retirees. The current oversupply of small apartments, with many more scheduled for

housing in the Woden Town Centre?:	further development, target only a very small profile of community ie students. singles and young couples. Many are cramped, poorly built, environmentally hazardous and likely to become future slums.
Employment and Economic Activity - What types of businesses or services would you like to see more of in the Woden Town Centre?:	Great if small businesses are able to thrive: hospitality, restaurants, cafes, hotels and retail including boutique clothing, crafts, galleries.
Employment and Economic Activity - How could the dining and entertainment options in Woden be improved?:	A range of dining / entertainment options would be welcome including theatre spaces / venues to allow for evening entertainments / cultural events.
Health, Education and Community Services - Are health, education, and community services in Woden accessible and sufficient for your needs?:	Reasonably so, assuming that community facilities such as Woden Library, Phillip Health Centre, Woden Community Services, Woden Seniors Centre can still persist and be supported by government, along with the variety of private medical facilities.
Health, Education and Community Services - What additional services would you find valuable in the area?:	
Public Spaces - How could Woden's public spaces be improved to ensure they are inviting and safe for everyone?:	Firstly to have them and for them not to keep being sold off to developers. For public spaces to be sufficient and proportionate to the influx of residents. With gardens / parklands alongside tower blocks to provide necessary recreation/green space and mitigation to thermal mass of concrete/glass tower blocks and bitumen roads/streets. Green space and water = critical elements to public spaces.
Community Facilities - What recreational or cultural facilities do you think are missing in the Woden Town Centre? :	Public 50m outdoor pool and surrounding green recreation space, to facilitate health and wellbeing for all members of the Woden / South Canberra community. This is especially as we face hotter longer summers and need to mitigate the impact of climate change and the intense urban infill/development in Woden.
Transport and Accessibility - What would you do to improve access to and around the Woden Town Centre? :	
Other Comments - Do you have any other ideas or	

comments about the future of Woden Town Centre?:	
Would you be interested in speaking to the Committee about your experience at a public hearing?:	Yes