



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: 074

Submitter: John Foster

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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

Date: Tuesday, 16 September 2025 3:34:44 PM

Full Name and/or Organisation:	John Foster
Email address:	
Physical address:	
Phone number:	
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? :	An easier pedestrian flow to and from Edison Park, accessing the town centre quadrangle, library etc combining greenspace links to each new high-rise precinct. It is connected by concrete wind tunnels.
Social Connectivity - What types of events or activities would you like to see more of in Woden? :	Arts, crafts and performing arts centre. Outdoor music stage. Basketball half court More decent playgrounds
Housing - Do you think there is enough social and public housing in Woden to meet community needs? Why or why not?:	No. High rise is causing a future social problem. It will encourage youth gangs to hang out in the concrete jungle.
Housing - What improvements or changes would you suggest for housing in the Woden Town Centre?:	No more high rise
Employment and Economic Activity - What types of businesses or services would you like to see more of in the Woden Town Centre?:	Multicultural restaurants and cafes.
Employment and Economic Activity - How could the dining and entertainment	Indoor linking to outdoor community meeting areas.

options in Woden be improved?:	
Health, Education and Community Services - Are health, education, and community services in Woden accessible and sufficient for your needs?:	Library is somewhat hidden. Do not close or cut back on the library services
Health, Education and Community Services - What additional services would you find valuable in the area?:	Connectivity to the businesses in Phillip
Public Spaces - How could Woden's public spaces be improved to ensure they are inviting and safe for everyone?:	Green space The sports precinct at Woden has been decimated. We need replacements for Public sporting/recreational amenities such as the basketball centre and Pitch & Putt (previously gifted to the Southern Cross Club)
Community Facilities - What recreational or cultural facilities do you think are missing in the Woden Town Centre? :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I ask that the importance of preserving Phillip Pool be addressed – or at least finding another suitable location for an aquatic facility in Woden Valley. • Have a look at what Hornsby Council achieved in Sydney – after community pushback on its proposed closure • Downsizing Phillip Pool to 25m is socially irresponsible • Every Australian at the age of 12 should be able to swim 50m (RSLA)
Transport and Accessibility - What would you do to improve access to and around the Woden Town Centre? :	No tram
Other Comments - Do you have any other ideas or comments about the future of Woden Town Centre?:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woden town centre has progressively become overdeveloped with high rise buildings. Development is fine until it is overdone...then it creates social problems. • Referring to the Woden Valley District Planning Strategy the things that the residents most valued have been ignored - namely, pedestrian connections, Phillip Pool, basketball courts and public spaces.
Would you be interested in speaking to the Committee about your experience at a public hearing?:	Yes