



**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: 024

Submitter: ACT Sunday Social Cricket Association

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**From:** Angus Algie [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sunday, 17 August 2025 3:21 PM

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

**Subject:** ACT Sunday Social Cricket Association: submission to inquiry into barriers to participation in community sport

Hi Environment and Planning Committee

Please also consider this submission as complementary to personal submission I will shortly make into the inquiry about the Woden Town Centre. I am happy to have this submission published with my details included.

My observation as President of the ACT Sunday Social Cricket Association (<https://actsocialcricket.com>) is that community sports infrastructure has not kept pace with rapid population growth in two key areas, Gungahlin and the Woden Valley.

In the case of Gungahlin it is welcome that there are new grounds going up with the new suburbs, the big issue is the grounds are largely shade-free. No doubt planting will result in adequate tree cover around the perimeter of grounds in time, but until then some shade sail would make a huge difference to the attractiveness of many of the grounds for community sport users.

In the case of Woden the issue is that there is very rapid population growth, including of young families, and there are already grounds and other facilities with adequate shade but these have been allowed to become very run down. There are ovals in Curtin, Lyons and Chifley with existing concrete pitches that would be suitable for teen and adult cricket if repaired (and laid with astroturf where this isn't the case already) and provided with changing facilities and toilets. This needn't be a huge construction task. I was heartened to hear at the recent ACT Sportsgrounds summer sports allocation meeting (held 13 August) that modular solutions (i.e. shipping containers) are being trialled that are much cheaper to produce and faster to produce than traditional construction. Chifley and Lyons would be particularly attractive if fixed up, given their proximity to both shops and playgrounds.

At Curtin, Lyons and Chifley (and also in a strip of land between Lyons and Chifley) there are also existing cricket nets that have been allowed become very degraded. Again, bringing them up to a reasonable standard would not mean starting from scratch and would considerably improve access to facilities for either casual or scheduled community use. Over the longer term, investment in irrigation would improve these existing assets further.

An interesting catch-22 at the moment about mobilising other funding for infrastructure projects is that the big cricket and football funds generally rely on there already being a club using a venue before they will contribute to further improving it. In the case of the potential venues I have noted they are not good enough for club use yet so there is no lever to access the national sporting funds; seed funding to improve them and attract regular use could thus unlock other, non-government funding in future.

While on Woden, I note there is a neglected bit of grass along Holman Street in Curtin. I ride past it frequently and have never seen it used, perhaps because the grass is usually knee high. It has potential for greater utilisation, even just for having a stroll and a sit, if given a bit of love.

Finally, to make a very specific further suggestion unrelated to the above, I have long found it extremely odd that Hall Oval is only half irrigated. For many years we had a pub team based in Hall and could not play up there, notwithstanding there is a pitch and change rooms, as ACT Sportsgrounds would not hire it out because of safety concerns due to the ground when in cricket configuration being half irrigated and half reliant on rain (and therefore as often as not bare dirt by February).

Regards

Angus Algie

President, ACT Sunday Social Cricket Association

