



**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: 054

Submitter: Andrew Rice

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**From:** [LACommitteeEnvironment@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:LACommitteeEnvironment@parliament.act.gov.au)

**To:** LA Committee - Environment

**Subject:** Inquiry submission - Role and Future of the Woden Town Centre

**Date:** Sunday, 31 August 2025 9:55:18 AM

Full Name and/or Organisation:	Andrew Rice
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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? :	Less construction, attention to creating spaces around buildings that encourage people to gather outside, care with building to allow sunlit spaces, some more visible policing to reduce anti-social behaviour
Social Connectivity - What types of events or activities would you like to see more of in Woden? :	Music, markets, educational/experiential activities - bike workshops, craft, U3A, abseiling down buildings
Housing - Do you think there is enough social and public housing in Woden to meet community needs? Why or why not?:	Likely adequate but overall building plan has the potential to make it a high rise jungle which could create pockets of ghettos and reduce interaction
Housing - What improvements or changes would you suggest for housing in the Woden Town Centre?:	As above - densification needs to happen but without large employers in the Centre, it becomes a dormitory which creates its own problems. Developers need also to be held to account on producing quality developments - for example, WOVA is quite shoddy
Employment and Economic Activity - What types of businesses or services would you like to see more of in the Woden Town Centre?:	I'd like to see big box retailers encouraged to set up smaller stores in the Town Centre or Phillip. Ridiculous that you need to drive 15km to buy a plant or a screw. Attention needed to planning regulations to encourage these presences.
Employment and Economic Activity - How could the dining and entertainment options in Woden be improved?:	Likely ok but my earlier comment about sunlit spaces would encourage a more diverse dining offering
Health, Education and Community Services - Are	The hospital should have been redeveloped on the old CIT site so that's a missed opportunity.

health, education, and community services in Woden accessible and sufficient for your needs?:	
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?:	See my earlier comments
Community Facilities - What recreational or cultural facilities do you think are missing in the Woden Town Centre? :	We need a 50m pool in Woden. Every other town centre has one. The Govt should not let Geocon take Woden for a ride. The Govt should resume the pool and upgrade it to an all weather facility. Woden could also benefit from a theatre for plays and music. Canberra College's is a little small
Transport and Accessibility - What would you do to improve access to and around the Woden Town Centre? :	More regular suburban buses.
Other Comments - Do you have any other ideas or comments about the future of Woden Town Centre?:	I'm all for a market-led development of Woden but planning and regulation needs to guide it. I think the planners are too laissez-faire and we're going to get the concrete jungle which is empty during the day. Add to that is the lack of controls on developers with the resulting shoddy construction creating pockets at risk of disadvantage. The Woden area has always been taken for granted by Labor.
Would you be interested in speaking to the Committee about your experience at a public hearing?:	No