



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: 093

Submitter: Name withheld

Date authorised for publication: 16 October 2025

From:

Sent: Friday, 19 September 2025 4:13 PM

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

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

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

Thank you to the ACT Government for establishing this inquiry into the Woden Town Centre, and for providing the opportunity for members of the public to contribute their views.

I have lived in Swinger Hill since I first arrived in Canberra in 2004. Over the past few years I have noticed, and been perturbed by, the increasing removal of amenities in Woden.

It is clear that there has been a major push to increase the number of residential dwellings in Woden - almost all of these dwellings seem to be fairly small apartments in very high rise developments.

However, this significant increase in Woden's population does not seem to have resulted in a commensurate increase in community facilities. Indeed, quite the opposite has happened with green spaces and playing fields being removed and instead used for high rise residential developments.

With the advent of the light rail Northside, public transport Southside reduced significantly, with convenient and frequent bus routes being removed - using public transport has now become complex and time consuming. Noting the constraints of the public transport system, the Town Centre needs adequate parking, especially disabled spaces, particularly for the library and health centre.

The library needs to receive an increase in funding to support the valuable community service it provides. A high-functioning and reliable library service which provides a variety of services suitable for a broad range of the community is a tangible expenditure of ratepayers' funds and money well spent.

The high rise developments close to the Woden Town Centre have resulted in overshadowing, created a wind tunnel, and the lack of green spaces will create a heat sink. I suggest the zoning around the Town Centre be changed to reduce building heights and incorporate green spaces.

The new precinct close to the Woden CIT campus and the bus interchange presents an exciting opportunity to create a bustling hive of activity for people to meet by day and by night - ensure it remains a pedestrian zone, encourage businesses such as cafes, restaurants, bars, and convenience stores. Create a public space for markets and community events (such as the fun Woden 60th anniversary celebration of a few years ago), include children's play areas (something similar to the play area at Dairy Flat Rd would be a wonderful and sympathetic addition to this precinct).

Unbelievable but true, Woden does not have a community centre or arts centre! This lack should be remedied pronto to build cultural identity and inclusive engagement, such as provide a place to do recreation activities for physical and mental health. Also, the Woden Community Service should be located in a central location (such as this thriving hub) rather than hidden away in the upper floor of the Westfield Shopping Centre.

Sporting facilities should be returned to Woden - there is a demonstrated need for a 50m pool, preferably included in a multi-purpose aquatic centre, with an indoor sports stadium.

At the moment, Woden is looking a bit run-down and sad - it's a dormitory where people sleep, or pass through to somewhere that offers more.

Woden should and could be a destination - a place where people choose to live, work, and enjoy their recreation time.

Sent from my iPad