



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: 025

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From: Angus Algie [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 17 August 2025 3:46 PM
To: LA Committee - Environment <LACommitteeEnvironment@act.gov.au>
Subject: Submission into inquiry into Woden Town Centre

Hi Environment and Planning Committee

This is a personal submission into the inquiry into Woden Town Centre. I am happy to have this submission published with my details included.

I note that in my capacity as President of the ACT Sunday Social Cricket Association I have made a complementary submission to the inquiry into barriers to participation in community sport, as there is some overlap between the matters.

The issue with the Woden Town Centre is how uninviting are the open spaces. Other than the partial exception of the outside tables at The Alby and a couple of places along Bradley Street, there is no incentive to linger anywhere, leaving the place dead most of the time. Even the new areas surrounding the TAFE are terrible, just some uncovered concrete expanses with haphazardly plonked tables and benches in a spot that is currently freezing and that will be both blisteringly hot and entirely unshaded in summer. Add to that most of the area not covered with buildings is connected by powerful wind tunnels and you have a recipe to hurry to or from the carpark / bus station to the office and back or to cower inside your apartment.

Breaking up the massive expanses of unshaded hard surfaces and taking steps to disrupt the wind tunnels would go a long way toward making the place more attractive. And something really needs to be done about the square between the Plaza, the Cosmopolitan Centre, Lovett Tower and the W2 highrise. Working with Westfield to pivot some of the shops to open onto the square rather than present a blank glass frontage with signs saying 'use inside door' would be a great start.

The related issue is the role surrounding infrastructure adjacent to the Town Centre could play in making the whole area more liveable for all, if it just received a little investment. There are shabby, underused open spaces in Curtin, Lyons and Chifley that, with some investment, could provide very attractive spaces for both suburbanites and Town Centre dwellers, with the added benefit of increasing traffic to and investment in the rather sad-looking Lyons and Chifley shops. The new playground at Lyons field is a decent start, but there is much more that could be done without vast expense.

Regards

Angus Algie

