



**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: 105

Submitter: Weston Creek Woden Dodgers Basketball Club

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**From:** Grant Keys

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

**Subject:** Fwd: Woden inquiry

Hello

Our opening statement below for tabling.

Regards

Grant Keys

WCW Dodgers Basketball Club

Thank you, Chair and Committee members, and thank you for this opportunity to speak about the future of Woden Town Centre.

My name is Grant Keys, and I represent the Weston Creek Woden Dodgers Basketball Club — a community-sport organisation with decades of history, hundreds of players, and deep roots in Woden, Weston Creek and the broader south Canberra region. I've also been proud to live and work in the Woden Valley for the past 15 years.

We strongly welcome this inquiry. Woden is not only a commercial or transport hub — it has real potential to be a **vibrant, inclusive, mixed-use community centre**: a place where people live, work, study, socialise and access recreation, health, culture and community services. The recent delivery of the new CIT Woden campus, youth foyer and future public transport interchange is already transforming Woden's capacity to support education, connectivity and urban renewal — a positive step towards the future prosperity of the region.

But for Woden to succeed as a “compact city” town centre, it must also support **the social and recreational needs of its growing community** — not just apartments, shops or offices. That's why I speak today on behalf of local basketball players, families and volunteers: because despite the promise of densification and redevelopment, **Woden still lacks essential community and sporting infrastructure**. As has been noted in our submission and previous approaches to Government, such as our 2021 Audit of Basketball Infrastructure in ACT's Weston Creek and Woden Valley— our efforts to build and foster community are being hampered by the limited supply and poor quality of our indoor and outdoor basketball infrastructure in Woden region. Since the demolition of the Woden Basketball Stadium, our 600+ members are spread over 7 different school and church gyms from Forrest to Tuggeranong, many of them with aging, non compliant, unsafe and often poorly maintained basketball infrastructure, meaning we are unable to host competition games.

We believe Woden's masterplan for a compact and liveable city must go beyond housing and retail density. It must deliver **multi-purpose community infrastructure — accessible, safe and high-quality indoor and outdoor recreation, cultural and social spaces** — so that people of all ages, abilities, genders and backgrounds can benefit from the town centre's growth.

Canberra has a long and proud basketball history and we seeing high demand for the sport amongst our diverse community. Bringing our club under the one roof in a central accessible town centre like Woden to meet demand for our participation in BACT competitions is a dream we look forward to working with all stakeholders to achieve.

Apart from indoor infrastructure, we also see great potential in growing the new Olympic sport of 3x3 basketball, with currently no competition-standard courts on the south side of Canberra. As has been outlined in our 2021 Audit, we believe the redevelopment of the Woden town centre and its connection to Eddison Park present great opportunities to look at how high quality 3x3 basketball infrastructure could bring life and social amenity to these spaces, and achieve better outcomes than the poorly maintained and designed ring on the side of the skate park currently offers.

We urge the Committee and Government to use this inquiry as an opportunity to embed community sport and recreation infrastructure at the heart of Woden's redevelopment. This will lock in social value and resilience for decades to come.

Thank you. I look forward to contributing more during the hearings, and to answering any questions the Committee may have.