



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Standing Committee on Economics,
Industry and Recreation

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into barriers and opportunities for participation in community sports in the ACT

Submission number: 059

Submitter: Name Withheld

Date authorised for publication: 11 February 2026

Opportunities for community sports in Woden

The ACT Legislative Assembly is inviting submissions into two inquiries:

- Role of Future of the Woden Town Centre;
- Barriers and opportunities for participation in community sports.

Background

A major barrier to participation in sport in Woden is the recent proposal to replace the 50-metre public swimming pool in the Woden Town Centre, with a smaller pool as part of a major residential development. The former pitch and putt course is proposed for residential development, removing more recreation opportunities and open space land for the increasing density of residents in the Town Centre.

In 2020, two parcels of land in North Curtin were transferred to the Commonwealth for a future Diplomatic Estate. Eleven hectares, (Section 122, block 13) was rezoned to Residential Use for development by the ACT Government, for release from 2027-28 over 10 years.

The National Capital Plan Amendment 95 designates future land use for North Curtin as Diplomatic Precinct (Section 4.14.4) and Residential (adjacent to Yarra Glen).

Detailed conditions include that large bulky building form is to be avoided ... the building ... form should follow the slope of the land, rather than contrasting with it.

Inquiry Terms of Reference

This submission addresses the following Terms of Reference:

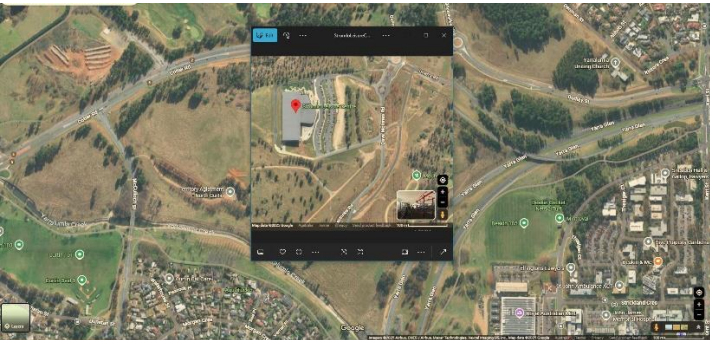
- The Woden Inquiry Terms of Reference include a range of community facilities, including recreation facilities (with a focus on an aquatic centre).
- The Community Sport Inquiry Terms of Reference include access for locals of all ages, abilities and backgrounds and barriers to participation.

Submission

The future land use for North Curtin should be reconsidered to enable an aquatic centre to be built on part of the proposed diplomatic land.

There are already several undeveloped blocks for diplomatic use in Deakin and O'Malley. The long timeline for future diplomatic use means this land will be undeveloped for many years.

I have only recently visited the wonderful Stromlo Leisure Centre. Its footprint would fit easily into the eastern section of the proposed diplomatic precinct. It could be well designed into the slope of the land, in a similar way to the Arboretum Visitor Centre. The following illustrates the Stromlo Leisure Centre overlaid on North Curtin air photos, at the same scale from Google Maps.



This would provide a community sport hub for north Woden, easily accessible for north Curtin residents and eventually an attraction for the residents along Yarra Glen. It is central to the Deakin office precinct and community sport ovals, (3km 5 minutes via Kent Street, Dudley Street, Cotter Road and McCullough Street and facilitated by a pedestrian bridge over Yarra Glen), the under-construction retirement village on Cotter Road and whatever is built near Yarralumla Brickworks. Woden Town Centre residents could use the cycle paths or use public transport through Curtin or in the future along Yarra Glen.

	I understand I cannot share my submission until the Committee publishes it. I request that my name not be published with my submission.
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