



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

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Fiona Carrick MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Reference: CED

Hearing: 11 December 2025

In relation to: Entertainment Precinct

Question received: 19 December 2025

Answer Due: 5 January 2026

The submissions for the inquiry included many ideas, including:

- Will you consider keeping the road through the West Plaza closed (except for markets and event access) to keep the public space pedestrianised?
- Will you include the Woden Town Square and the West Plaza in an entertainment precinct to provide certainty to the private sector and residents?
- Will the government actively work with the community to ensure these public spaces are enabled for markets and events?

Thank you

Chris Steel: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- No. The Woden Town Centre, West Plaza includes a section of road that connects between Bowes Street and Bradley Street. This road section has been designed as a shared zone that gives priority to pedestrians but allows vehicle use. This road section is used by a variety of drivers for deliveries, access to the residential developments, and as a parking location for loading unloading and for people requiring disability parking.
- As noted in the hearings for the Standing Committee on Economics, Industry and Recreation Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025 and Minister Cheyne's response to QON 26 for this inquiry, work to investigate other entertainment precincts across the ACT will

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commence following the completion of the review of the City Centre Entertainment Precinct (CCEP). The CCEP review will be completed in the first half of 2026.

- Government understands the importance of activating place and will continue to work with, and support, event organisers to facilitate community events, markets and other activities in our public places. West Plaza could be available for markets and events. This would require event organisers to apply for land use permits and for appropriate temporary traffic management arrangements to be put into place.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

Signature:



Date:

12/1/25

By the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development, Chris Steel