



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

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Caitlin Tough MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Transport

In relation to: Planning and Development in Woden

Hearing: 11 December 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 74-76

Transcript provided: 22 December 2025

Answer Due: 6 January 2025

MR CHRIS STEEL MLA: took on notice the following question(s):

THE CHAIR: Caitlin.

MS TOUGH: Thanks, Chair. I have just got a question about government engagement with residents of apartment blocks, because there are quite a few going in around—I think there are quite a few already in Woden; have been there for a while. And then there is often construction going on around Woden, CIT, bus interchange, and a few other things. What work is undertaken to engage some of the residents in those buildings? So a lot of them are renters. They might not be engaged with the body corporate as such. They might be newer to the region, so maybe not as engaged with, say, the community council or some of those more established consultation bodies. What process is there for those residents to engage when there are big disruptions happening around them?

Mr Green: I think in terms of disruption, particularly as a result of government's catalysing projects in the town centre, I am happy to take that on notice and get some advice from our colleagues in Infrastructure Canberra as the delivery agency. With respect to other development that is led by private sector, there are statutory provisions under the Planning Act with respect to the notification of not only homeowners but occupiers. And so where there are adjacent developments occurring we would expect, through the statutory process, they will receive notification of those developments. And of course, with any of the engagement that we will be undertaking in future, particularly around Southern Gateway, we would expect there to be a large public campaign in and around those types of activities.

Mr Steel: There has been quite a lot of engagement just recently around the CIT Woden campus project, but mainly in relation to the traffic arrangements that have changed and continue to change through the construction program related to the bus

interchange. So Grand Central Towers has been particularly affected there because vehicles have—movements have changed around the building which has had an impact on residents. And there has been quite close engagement with the body corporate but it is sometimes difficult to contact some of the groups that you mentioned. And so there is extra effort that will be needed to be able to engage with the broader community in Woden on that.

The other big engagement has been around light rail stage 2B and the draft EIS. So that was a very extensive engagement, particularly with some of the residents of the large multi-units in North Woden, Irving Street, to be able to engage them on the design of the future light rail stop. And because the line was coming directly adjacent next to the Ivy apartment block, there was a lot of interest in what the impacts are and mitigations that could be put in place to address that. So there has been a fair bit of engagement through that, but there will be further effort, I think, needed going forward. And also, when we are planning for the potential for new homes in the town centre and in the corridor, it is going to be important to not just think of the new residents and their needs—and we do not know necessarily who those new residents could be; they could be coming from other parts of Canberra. But engaging with existing residents so that they see a benefit out of the potential transport-oriented development, both in improvements to existing green spaces and access to recreation and community infrastructure as part of that, and active travel connections and, of course, the public transport infrastructure that will be put in place as well. So there will be a need for quite extensive engagement, I think, on that, as there has been on light rail and other projects.

MR CHRIS STEEL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Residents of Grand Central Towers, as well as tenants of Charles Perkins House, Cosmopolitan and Churches buildings, Hellenic Club and the Abode Hotel, have been kept regularly informed of works throughout the construction of the CIT Woden Campus and new transport interchange.

Representatives from these groups, and other precinct neighbours, were invited to join a Construction Information Group (CIG) which has been running monthly since January 2023, and hosted by delivery partner, Lendlease, to provide updates on the project and upcoming works which may cause disruption.

Minutes and presentations are shared post each meeting for CIG members to disseminate information on any construction impact to residents, tenants, and guests where relevant.

In advance of major changes to pedestrian and vehicle movements around the site, pop up information sessions have been held in the foyer of Grand Central Towers and in the temporary transport interchange to engage and consult with the residents, public transport users and the wider community.

Throughout the life of the project, monthly construction lookaheads have been distributed via email to local residents who have registered through the Built for CBR website. These newsletters provide updates on construction progress and details of upcoming works. In addition to the monthly electronic updates, printed newsletters are distributed to all local residents within 2km of the site and again these provide an opportunity to engage with the community.

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In addition to these meetings, travel impacts and works notifications are distributed as required to the local community and published to the [Built for CBR](#) website.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

Signature: 

Date: 12/1/25

By the Minister for Transport, Chris Steel MLA