



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

## Answer to question taken on notice

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Asked by: Ms Caitlin Tough MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Transport

In relation to: Planning and Development and consultation with apartment blocks

Hearing: 11 December 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 75-76

Transcript provided: 22 December 2025

Answer Due: 6 January 2025

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

**MS TOUGH:** Yes, with that light rail, you mentioned the Ivy. Is there potential for, say, government to hold consultation with specific apartment blocks or areas of apartment blocks? Like, say, for example, often consultation is done with a community council about things, you know, because that is a guaranteed way of talking to a bunch of people in the community. Is there a way of going to apartment blocks or groups of them and saying, "Light rail is coming through past here. Let's chat," or, "Bus interchange things are happening. You know, let's chat in the building"?

**Mr Steel:** Yes, I think there was some specific targeted engagement with Ivy in particular during that, but I can take on notice what exactly occurred in terms of meetings. But there has been a variety of different approaches, whether it is the sort of larger town hall-style meetings, but also pop-ups and those sorts of things to catch people at different points in the day and different cohorts of people, as well as a digital presence to make sure that people can engage through that means as well. So it is always a challenge to get people to get involved in this. While we are hyper interested in planning, some people are not so interested. And then, of course, there are very interested groups within the community. We need to make sure we have got that broad representation. So I will come back on notice particularly in relation to light rail, but I think we are just working through what is the communications approach that we might take on an engagement approach on the Southern Gateway work and so it is an active point of discussion.

**MS TOUGH:** Awesome. Yes, awesome. Thanks.

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

The engagement approach for the Light Rail Stage 2B (Stage 2B) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) featured several activities, attracting a range of participants, and capturing various community perspectives.

In June 2024 online information sessions were held with specific apartment blocks located on Irving Street, Woden, including The Ivy, Oaks Arbour, Oaks Crown and Trilogy. Online meetings allowed for both residents and/or apartment owners, including interstate owners, to attend the information sessions. Residents were notified of these information sessions via a letter box drop and owners were notified by email from their strata company. Similar online information sessions were also held for apartment blocks located on State Circle and on National Circuit in Barton.

In addition to this engagement, two information sessions (in March 2024 and April 2025) were held in the Grand Central Towers foyer to talk to residents about the works on the CIT Woden Campus and Transport Interchange and to discuss any ideas or concerns.

In total, 29 community pop-ups and drop-in sessions (19 in 2024 and 10 in 2025) were held at key locations along the proposed Stage 2B alignment. Ten of these pop-ups and drop-ins were held in Woden (locations included Woden Interchange, Woden Library, The Hellenic Club and Woden Westfield). Residents were notified of these sessions via a letter box drop and email. Information about these events was also available on the project website.

In August 2025, a Stage 2B community forum was held at Canberra College in Woden. Residents were notified of this forum via email.

Other engagement activities for Stage 2B have included a YourSay survey, door-knocking businesses, Light Rail to Woden Community Reference Group meetings, interactive map and individual stakeholder meetings.

Communications materials and information tools to support the engagement program include media releases, social media, Light Rail to Woden webpage updates, Stage 2B Digital EIS, YourSay Conversations, fact sheets, project postcards, advertising, newsletters (Project Update and Our Canberra), emails and a 1800 hotline. The local Community Councils and Residents Associations have also helped Infrastructure Canberra distribute information to the local community about Stage 2B community events.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

Signature:



By the Minister for Transport, Chris Steel MLA

Date:

12/1/26