

Mr Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister
ACT Government
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Chief Minister

RE Proposal for a multi-purpose sports hall in Woden and an invitation to the Woden Valley Community Council public meeting on 1 May 2019

I am writing to provide you with our proposal for a multi-purpose sports hall in Woden. We would also like to invite you to the Woden Valley Community Council (WVCC) public meeting on 1 May 2019 to discuss your ambitions for the Woden Town Centre, which services Woden, Weston Creek and the broader south Canberra region.

The Woden Town Centre is centrally located and accessible making it an ideal location for the provision of jobs, services and facilities for the growing community.

Similar to your policies for inclusion and your 2016 *Statement of Ambition* for Canberra, we have ambitions for our district. One of our ambitions is for the community to have pride in the Woden Town Centre and to facilitate our residents' well-being by sharing social, cultural and recreational public spaces. We aim to strengthen connections between people to build a strong and resilient community. Fundamental to this ambition is opportunity that allows our community to 'live, work and play', in our Town Centre.

While we appreciate that the significant pipeline of residential towers will bring more people to the Centre and create activity, we also note that without social and recreational facilities residents will drive to other areas of Canberra for amenity.

We thank you for the 'Woden Experiment' which is already bringing people to the Town Square. Notwithstanding this investment, there is a shortage of indoor sports facilities in Canberra that is keenly felt in the southern districts due to the loss of the Woden Basketball Stadium, the CIT gymnasium and the Tuggeranong MPowerdome. We have also lost the tennis courts, bowling greens and the ice skating rink and pool are at risk of closure.

Recreational facilities are important to our community as they have the ability to bring people of all ages together and provide opportunities for inclusion. They can inspire and motivate individuals while also fostering community pride. A multi-purpose sports hall in Woden has wide support from the community and the sporting groups in the south of Canberra.

We are concerned that the closure of facilities has resulted in an imbalance of recreational infrastructure between the north and south of Canberra, with the Woden and Weston Creek districts primarily disadvantaged. Our proposal would require around \$30 million to construct a multi-purpose sports hall in Woden to service multiple sports in the region.

It is concerning that the ACT Treasury's population forecasts do not include growth for Woden and Weston Creek because these forecasts are used for planning the provision of services and facilities. As you are aware, there are many changes proposed for Woden including light rail and densification. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss these changes with you at a Woden Valley Community Council meeting.

We would also appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our ambitions for our community. We look forward to hearing if you are available to attend our public meeting on 1 May 2019, I can be contacted on 0420 533 809 or at president@wvcc.org.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "FmCarrick". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a faint horizontal line.

Ms Fiona Carrick
President
Woden Valley Community Council

12 March 2019