

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

Dear Chief Minister

### **PHILLIP SWIMMING POOL CLOSURE**

We are writing to express our concern about the decision by Mr Raut, the manager of the Phillip Swimming and Ice Skating Centre, to close the pool this summer. We are seeking a commitment from the ACT Government to buy the lease so that the recreation facilities remain available to the community.

The reasons provided for the pool closure include the difficulty in getting specialist tradies from Sydney to do the essential maintenance work due to the pandemic lockdown and the intrusion into privacy from surrounding apartment blocks.

#### ***Benefits of recreation facilities***

Research has highlighted the benefits of local recreation facilities and how activity and connecting people is good for our physical and mental health. Participation in local activities bring people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds together and cultivates fun, relationships, and a sense of belonging and community pride. Sporting facilities provide opportunities to build social capital and deliver long-term health and economic benefits.

#### ***Why should recreation facilities be located in the Woden Town Centre***

The Woden Town Centre is the major social and economic hub in Canberra's south servicing a large growing population. It is centrally located and accessible by public transport from across Canberra which can reduce our dependency on cars. Recreation facilities draw people to the centre which generates activity that flows to small businesses including retail, cafes and restaurants. This adds to life in the streets making the centre more attractive to the broader community.

#### ***The future of the facility***

We are concerned that the pool will close forever and propose the following actions:

- enforce the lease condition to maintain the pool so it can open this summer
- amend the planning code to provide a sustainable solution for recreation on the site
- the ACT Government buys the lease back to keep community facilities on the site.

Recreation facilities, like 50 metre pools, are unlikely to make adequate profits to meet the capital and maintenance costs over the life of the asset. We understand that the ice rink subsidises the

pool so we are seeking transparency about the future of the pool considering the Government's commitment to a new ice centre in Tuggeranong.

As you know, we have also lost the basketball stadium, bowling greens, pitch n putt and tennis courts from the Town Centre. **Attachment A** shows the location of major community facilities across Canberra and the lack in Woden.

We would like to request a meeting with you to discuss the future of the pool and invite you to our next zoom public meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 3 November 2021 to discuss the future of community facilities in Woden.

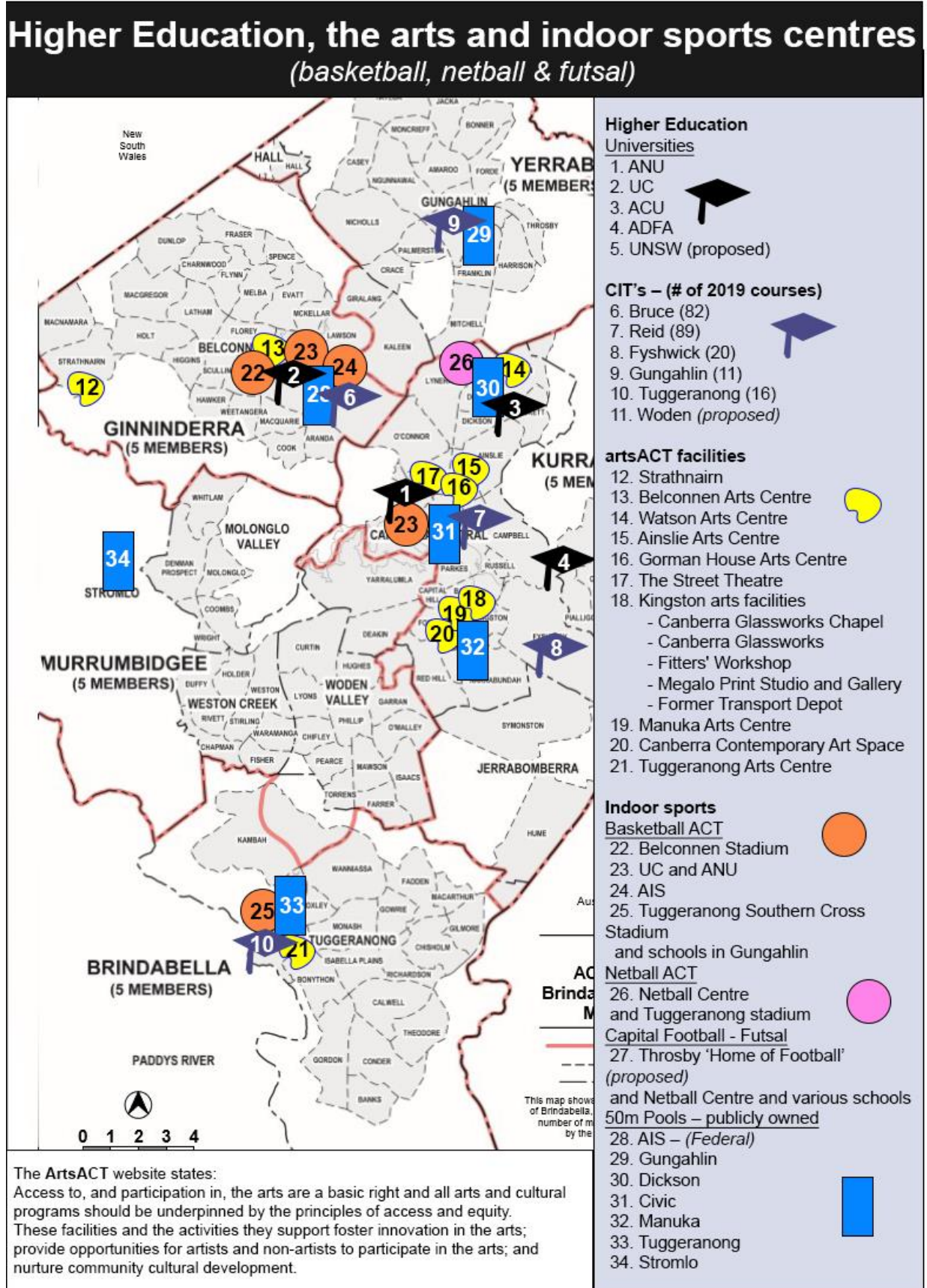
Please let me know of your availability to attend our public meeting.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona Carrick". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ms Fiona Carrick  
President  
Woden Valley Community Council  
25 October 2021

This map demonstrates the lack of facilities in the Woden Town Centre



Note: the Manuka Pool is 30m