



# Meegan Fitzharris MLA

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Member for Yerrabi

Minister for Health and Wellbeing  
Minister for Transport and City Services  
Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research

Ms Fiona Carrick  
President - Woden Valley Community Council

By email: [president@wvcc.org.au](mailto:president@wvcc.org.au)

Dear Ms Carrick *Fiona, Chris & Tom*

Thank you for the co-signed letter, including Mr Chris Redmond, Woden Community Service, and Mr Tom Anderson, Weston Creek Community Council, received on 12 February 2018 in relation to possible higher education campus investments in Woden and South Canberra. I would also like to thank you for meeting with me and my colleague, Mr Chris Steel MLA, Member for Murrumbidgee on Friday, 16 March 2018.

Firstly, the ACT Government does not have an explicit policy in relation to the distribution of higher education campus infrastructure. The concentration of the sector in North Canberra is a result of decisions and opportunities taken many years ago.

You would be aware that the ACT higher education sector is competing strongly in a rapidly changing environment so modern facilities and new models of student engagement and delivery are all critical to attract the best students, teachers and researchers. Scale and efficiency are equally important. The ACT Government will continue to help our institutions where we can, recognising the enormous contribution the sector makes to our economy and the vibrancy of our city.

Of course the CIT also faces these same challenges and is, I believe, making the correct campus planning decisions to position the organisation into the future. A strong and modern CIT will be beneficial for Canberra at many levels. The ACT Government has also deliberately given the Board and management of CIT greater autonomy to chart its own course in this new and rapidly changing education environment.

You also mention UNSW and its plans to develop a new student campus on the eastern edge of the City. As a Group of Eight university with a 50 year relationship with the defence community through nearby Russell and ADFA, I understand UNSW's strong preference to expand and develop in this part of Canberra. While decisions are yet to be made by government about the development of the new campus, I note there are synergies with the plans to revitalise the current CIT facilities in Reid. We will certainly look to provide more information in the public domain as the project proceeds, but I cannot see the Woden site being a suitable alternative for UNSW's ambitions at this point.

## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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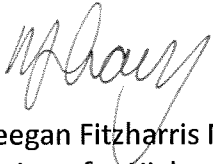


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In your letter you note the pivotal role planning plays in shaping the future of the Woden Town Centre. You will be aware implementation of the Woden master plan is well underway with changes to the Territory Plan, upgrades to pedestrian and cycle facilities in the town centre, upgrades to the Phillip Enclosed Oval and new development throughout the area. The upgrades to the pedestrian and cycle network, recommended in the master plan, has a particular focus on better connecting public transport, shops, services and community facilities, including the Woden CIT site that is located on the 'hospital link' path.

The master plan recognises the importance of the Woden CIT site and recommends that the existing community facility land use zone be retained. While future use of the former site is yet to be determined, the types of uses that bring in more people and that support the future vision for the town centre will be encouraged, and the community will be consulted before any final decisions are made.

Yours sincerely



Meegan Fitzharris MLA  
Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research

27/3/2018

cc. Chris Redmond  
Tom Anderson