SUMMARY

DRAFT WODEN VALLEY DISTRICT PLANNING STRATEGY

The Strategy is a vision for how we live, work, play and care for community in the Woden Valley.



It sets the direction and intended future planning outcomes for the district, across the suburbs of Chifley, Curtin, Farrer, Garran, Hughes, Isaacs, Lyons and Mawson.



What residents value about the Woden Valley District

While Woden District has a relatively small population, it contains the Woden town centre, which is a major hub for employment, community facilities and transport servicing Canberra's south side. During previous consultation, Woden Valley residents said there is much to value in the district that makes it a great place to live. They particularly value:

- the ridgeline profile, hills, and vistas
- the open green space, shared green space in the suburbs and nature reserves including Mount Taylor and Farrer Ridgeline
- connections through the district and beyond created by foot and cycle paths and public transport
- the Phillip Pool and basketball courts
- great local shops
- spaces that cater for different groups including through places and food, and aged care facilities in places that are accessible to shops, public transport, and variety of services available.

Future directions

Each district strategy is informed by five drivers. The drivers align with a set of future directions that tell us the focus of the strategy. For Woden these are:



5 big drivers	Directions for Woden
Blue-green network	• Protect and enhance habitat for threatened species and their connectivity with green corridors and nature reserves including Mount Mugga, Oakey Hill, Red Hill, Mount Taylor and Farrer Ridge. • Explore opportunities to restore natural environments along Yarralumla Creek as part of an enhanced blue-green connection including potential for wetlands.
Economic access and opportunity across the city	• Develop Woden town centre as an educational and commercial hub, building on Canberra Institute of Technology and the transformational potential of the future light rail connectivity. • Develop the economic and employment roles of Curtin and Mawson group centres with their improved connectivity to the future light rail corridor.
Strategic movement to support city growth	• Plan for and deliver light rail from the City Centre to Woden, as the central spine of the public transport network in south Canberra.
Sustainable neighbourhoods	• Deliver urban transformation and support new sustainable communities linked to the future light rail corridor between Curtin and Mawson.
Inclusive centres and communities	• Consider the role and function of existing group and local centres which may include Curtin, Lyons, and Mawson, where required, undertake targeted initiatives to support centre vitality and community development. • Deliver new community facilities aligned with urban improvement to address existing gaps in provision and support future residential growth.

Initiatives

A range of **initiatives** will deliver on the directions. Some are already planned or underway, and some are planned in the short term (5 years), medium term (10 years), long term (20 years) and longer term (more than 20 years).

The last page of this document has a full list of the initiatives for the Woden, with further detail available in the Draft Woden District Strategy.

Have your say on the **Draft Woden District Strategy**

The Woden District Strategy is in **draft** form. We are seeking community feedback to find out what you think about it. We are seeking your views on **key development sites and change areas** and proposed **initiatives**, including what you think is most important, and what you think we should explore further.

You can find out more, read the Draft Woden District Strategy and have your say through a series of in-person and online activities by visiting **https://yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/act-planning-review**



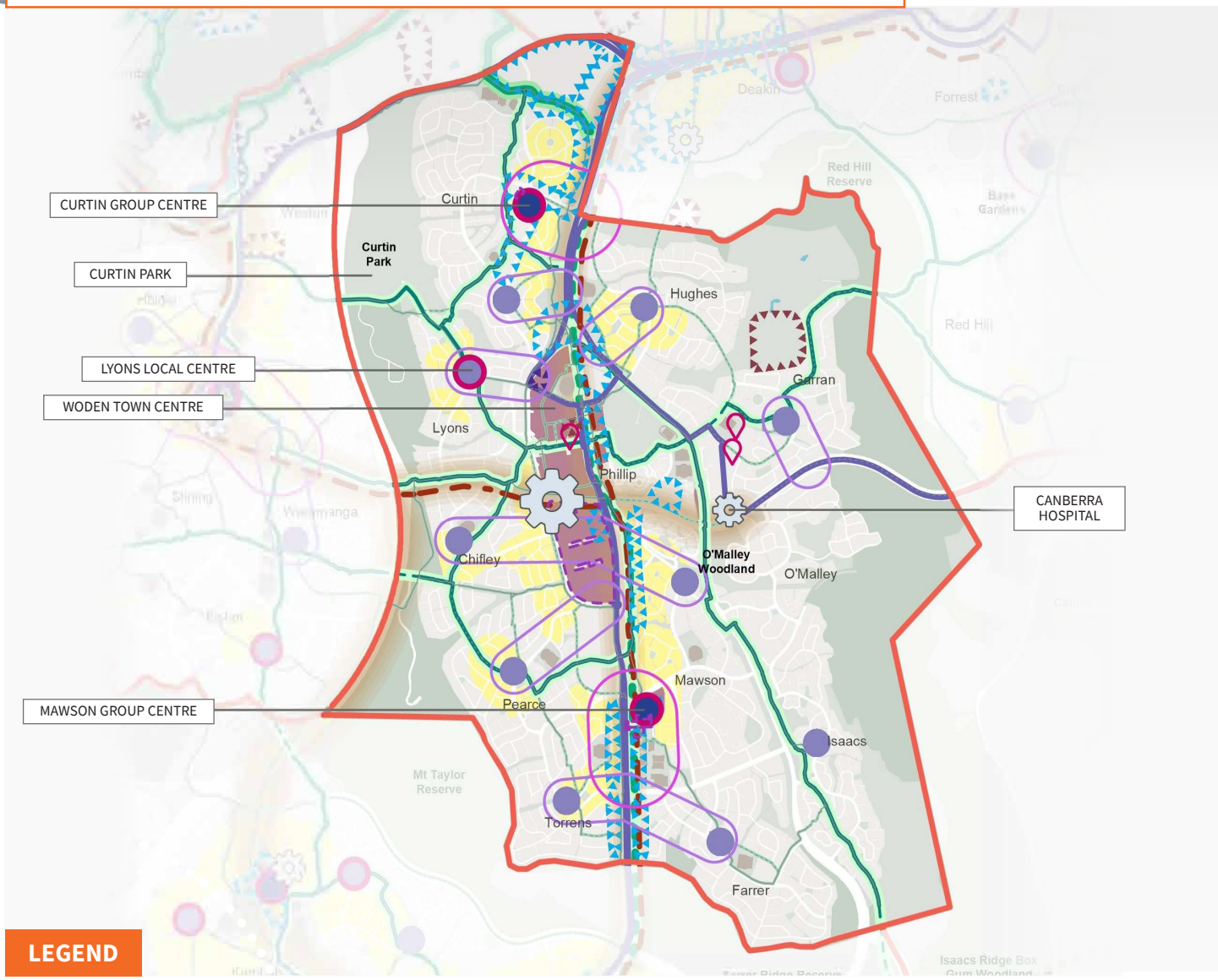
Change areas

Each district strategy includes **proposed, possible,** and **potential** key development sites and change areas, which are included on the map below.

For Woden, this includes:

1. Curtin horse paddocks
2. Curtin edge – north and south
3. Woden north
4. Woden town centre
5. Phillip and Athlon Drive
6. Mawson and Farrer (north)
7. Mawson and Farrer (south)

Draft Woden District Strategy Plan



LEGEND

Sustainable Neighbourhoods
- Future Investigation Areas
- Rapid Stop to Local Centre 200m Connections
- Rapid Stop to Group Centre 400m Connections

Key Sites and Change Areas
- Proposed
- Possible
- Potential

Inclusive Centres and Communities
- New Community and Recreation Facilities
- Possible Centre Revitalisation Opportunity
- Shopping Centre Improvement Program Underway

Strategic Movement
- Current Light Rail Corridor
- Proposed Light Rail Corridor
- Current Rapid Bus Corridor
- Proposed Rapid Bus Corridor
- Current Active Travel Community Network
- Proposed Active Travel Community Network
- Bicentennial National Trail
- Strategic Investigation Corridor

High Speed Rail Alignment
- Proposed
- Alternate

Blue-Green Network
- Open Space
- Nature Reserve
- Water Bodies
- Sportsfields

Existing Connections
- Primary
- Secondary

Possible Future Connections
- Primary
- Secondary

Economic Access and Opportunity
- Economic and Employment Focus
- City/ Town/Group/Local Centre
- Service Trades/Industrial
- Local Centre
- Group Centre
- Innovation Precinct

Note: This is a common legend for all similar district plans and not all items listed will appear on this drawing

Waterways and green space network (blue-green network)

- Enhance connectivity corridors for priority areas of grassland and woodland and areas of threatened species and nature reserves including:
  - between Farrer Ridge and Mount Mugga Nature Reserve in the south
  - along Beasley Street corridor through to Hughes-Garran woodland and Federal Golf Club in the east
  - connection between Oakey Hill Nature Reserve and Hughes-Garran woodland
  - Yarralumla Creek and native flora sites adjacent to the Cotter Road
  - Curtin Park and connections to Hughes open spaces in the north
  - Greenway across Hindmarsh Drive as a cross-district link.
- Enhance linkages from Mount Taylor Nature Reserve north to Oakey Hill Nature Reserve and through Curtin Park to link with Yarralumla Creek corridor and Cotter Road grassland.
- Enhance and restore waterways and green corridors from Yarralumla Creek along Athllon Drive and Yamba Drive, including connectivity with Farrer Ridge at the head of the creek.
- Undertake more detailed planning for the Yarralumla Creek corridor as an enhanced primary blue-green network connection, landscape feature and public park, aligned with planning for light rail corridor.
- Implement enhanced WSUD as part of all future development proposals in the district, including around the town centre and light rail corridor.
- Continue works to address risks of flash flooding (1% AEP flood) around Woden town centre and Mawson group centre.

Economic access and opportunity across the city

- Undertake an ACT-wide analysis of capacity and demand for employment floorspace to inform more detailed planning for Woden town centre, including capacity to meet strategic targets for employment.
- Review and update planning controls where required to:
  - preserve sufficient capacity and sites for future commercial floorspace to meet strategic employment targets
  - retain zoning and employment capacity of the Phillip light industrial/service trades area and appropriate buffers and separation from sensitive uses, including residential, that may be developed within the light rail corridor.
- Review the role of and undertake detailed analysis of capacity in Curtin and Mawson group centres for future employment floorspace and mixed-use development. This will inform more detailed planning and any changes to planning controls given the impact of the light rail corridor.
- In planning for light rail, include opportunities for employment floorspace alongside new residential development at key nodes and stops within the corridor.
- Explore opportunities for additional educational campuses in the district to complement investment in the new CIT campus.

Strategic movement to support city growth

- Light rail Stage 2 will deliver a mass transit connection from the City Centre to Woden to support the growth of the city, Woden and the south of Canberra. Investigate extensions to Mawson and Tuggeranong and take opportunities to improve east west transport connections within the district and integration with light rail stops.
- Identify strategies to improve the urban environment in key road corridors such as Melrose Drive and Hindmarsh Drive, aligned with planning for light rail.
- Plan for the future of Athllon Drive as a multimodal transport and urban boulevard featuring integrated light rail, active travel, urban infill, and redevelopment opportunities.
- Analyse strategic investigation corridors for future rapid transit connections along Hindmarsh Drive to connect to Weston Creek and Molonglo Valley, as part of planning for the wider Canberra network over the long term.
- Expand the micro-mobility network to the Woden District and other initiatives to facilitate an enhanced multimodal network in line with the ACT Transport Strategy.
- Implement upgrades to priority active travel routes identified in the implementation of the Active Travel Plan and ACT Transport Strategy including Kent Street/Wisdom Street through Hughes, Carruthers Street, Melrose Drive, Adelaide Avenue off-road cycle path and a link from the town centre to Canberra Hospital.

Sustainable neighbourhoods

- Further detailed analysis and modelling to identify future housing needs not able to be met by change areas across Woden District.
- Detailed analysis and planning for Woden future investigation areas to accommodate future housing and facilitate desired urban character based on suitability and transect analysis and opportunities in identified 200m/400m stop-to-centre connection areas.
- Plan for centres (Woden town centre, Curtin, and Mawson group centres) to apply district strategy objectives in planning for residential and mixed-use development, particularly those supporting economic access and sustainable neighbourhoods, aligned with broader planning for the light rail corridor.
- Continue planning for selected key sites identified on the Woden District strategy plan according to ideas and principles described below (see principles for selected key sites and change areas).
- Identify and prioritise local-scale projects to promote active streets, celebrating existing leafy areas and local centres, in line with the implementation of the ACT Transport Strategy and integrating urban improvement approaches.
- Development precincts achieve improved tree canopy cover, permeability and urban heat outcomes when compared to similar previous precincts.
- All development precincts to provide the infrastructure needed to deliver the zero-carbon transition, with additional precinct-based initiatives to also be encouraged.
- Investigate planning and design provisions that encourage the supply of affordable housing.

Inclusive communities and centres

- Identify possible local and group centres for investigation of appropriate improvement initiatives to support their ongoing viability and role as a community meeting plan. Initial possibilities:
  - group centres: Mawson and Curtin (aligned with more detailed planning)
  - local centres: Lyons
- Undertake detailed localised analysis to inform and confirm the need for new community and recreational facilities in Woden District, including consideration of wider demand from nearby districts. Include collaboration across government directorates and with the community.
- Deliver planned new community facilities including upgrades at Garran Primary School, the CIT campus and, in the next 20 years, implementation of Canberra Hospital Master Plan.
- Identify unleased/available sites in Woden District and assess their suitability for facilities for which there is identified demand.
- Include consideration of potential for new community and/or recreational facilities in planning for centres and stops along light rail corridor.
- Identify and preserve sufficient land for social and community uses alongside residential growth to accompany areas of change and support economic development in further detailed planning for Woden District.