

Mr Tom Duncan
Clerk
ACT Legislative Assembly
London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2601

23 September 2025

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter concerning petition E-PET 030-25, lodged by Dr Marisa Paterson MLA regarding parking congestions along Woodberry Avenue in Coombs.

The parking requirements of all developments in the ACT are assessed as part of the planning process. The Coombs estate was considered under an estate development plan where traffic flow, design standards and on-street parking were considered. Each development within the estate must also demonstrate that it can provide sufficient on-site parking to meet the needs of its occupants. The prescribed parking rates aim to balance the provision of parking and car usage with the promotion of more sustainable modes of transport, including active travel and public transport.

In relation to the development at 2 Woodberry Avenue and Pearlman Street, this development was assessed and determined by the independent planning and land authority (the Authority).

The development, located at Block 7 Section 3 Coombs, comprised of:

- 64 townhouses, with attached garages, and
- 70 apartments with undercroft, basement and surface carparking.

During the assessment process the development application (DA) was referred to the former Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate and was assessed by the Authority against the requirements of the Territory Plan and *Planning and Development Act 2007*.

On 24 September 2020, the DA (DA-202036822) was approved subject to conditions. Amongst other things, conditions were incorporated to increase on-site visitor parking spaces as well as to clarify parking dimensions and access to visitor spaces in the undercroft parking area.

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This was to ensure that the development met the legislative requirements. In total, the development has provided thirteen visitor parking spaces which includes three surface spaces and ten visitor spaces within the undercroft areas.

The indented parking on Woodbury Avenue, between Newchurch Street and Terry Connelly Street has been provided to serve the needs of visitors to the adjoining parkland.

A representative from the City and Environment Directorate (CED) visited Woodberry Avenue in August 2025 to assess the feasibility of introducing parking restrictions aimed at alleviating street congestion. The assessment concluded that limiting parking to one side of the street would effectively reduce congestion. Before any changes are implemented, CED will undertake consultation with affected residents and businesses. Amendments to parking arrangements will only be implemented where there is majority support from the local community.

CED has also explored the possibility of retrofitting indented parking along Woodberry Avenue. Implementing such a solution would require detailed design work, as the verge contains various underground services and utilities. Additionally, existing trees may need to be relocated to accommodate the changes.

Due to the scale and complexity, such a project would need to be considered within the broader Capital Works program and against competing priorities.

The ACT Government takes road safety and residents' amenity seriously and encourages all road users to share responsibility for road safety.

I trust the information provided above has been helpful.

Yours sincerely



Tara Cheyne MLA
Minister for City and Government Services