



Tara Cheyne MLA

Assistant Minister for Economic Development
Minister for the Arts
Minister for Business and Better Regulation
Minister for Human Rights
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Member for Ginninderra

Our ref: CMTEDD2023/4414

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

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letters of 29 August and 19 September 2023 regarding (e-petition) [petition number 005-23](#) and (paper) [petition number 026-23](#), lodged by Mr Ed Cocks MLA. The petitions draw the Assembly's attention to the investment by the ACT Government in arts and culture in the Woden Town Centre. The petitions suggest that a well-located multi-purpose arts facility for visual and performing arts and music would complement the proposed CIT. In addition, it could encourage local activity and provide confidence to the private sector to establish a day and night economy in Woden.

Arts, Culture and Creative activity in Woden Town Centre

A Woden Arts program has been delivered by the Tuggeranong Art Centre since 2019 with investment from the ACT Government through the ACT Arts Fund. The Woden Arts program is designed to be inclusive, offering creative experiences for local community groups and diverse cultural groups, as well as pop-up events showcasing the work of local musicians, poets, dancers and visual artists. From 2023 to 2027, as part of the Art Organisation Investment Program funding to Tuggeranong Arts Centre, delivery of the Woden Arts program will continue, including community arts and cultural development programs.

Further opportunities for engagement in arts, culture and creativity can be found through Libraries ACT. Libraries ACT in Woden has a full recording studio where audio recording, live streaming and video recording can occur. There is a podcasting studio as well as a rehearsal studio, community meeting and learning space. These spaces are available to the community and there are

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staff to train the community in how to use them. The spaces are available after hours by booking through Libraries ACT.

The co-design process for the Woden first floor refurbishment and the Canberra-wide Imagine Libraries 2030 highlighted that the community see libraries as their connected community space. Access to arts programs was highlighted as something that the library should continue to increase.

The Arts Activities funding provides approximately \$900,000 per annum to support individual artists, groups and organisations throughout Canberra, including in Woden. Artists, groups and organisations can apply for funding to undertake arts activities including creating new work, professional or skills development, as well as community arts and cultural development.

The ACT Event fund provides approximately \$742,000 per annum to support the delivery and enhancement of events that can encourage local engagement and participation. The Event Development Fund provides \$450,000 per annum to support the delivery and enhancement of events that can demonstrate strong potential to develop and grow, including capacity to generate community participation, tourist visitation and economic activity.

Woden CIT Campus

Construction of the new CIT Woden campus is well underway, with works to build the ground floor structure already having commenced. The new CIT Campus at Woden will have a multipurpose hall available to hire by members of the community for a range of purposes. This may include for arts or music performances.

ACT Government Arts Policy and Infrastructure Plan

On 28 July 2022, I released [Canberra: Australia's Arts Capital – Arts, Culture and Creative Policy 2022-2026](#) setting out the ACT Government's commitment to supporting a wide range of programs and activities to underpin the arts and cultural life in Canberra. Within this policy, there is a commitment for the ACT Government to invest in sustainable and connected arts and cultural venues and precincts for more creative participation across the ACT.

The [ACT Infrastructure Plan update: Entertainment, Arts and Sports](#) recognises that the variety and scale of cultural and recreational infrastructure that Canberra needs is changing. There is recognition that investing in community-level facilities is important. As Canberra grows, existing arts facilities experience increased demand for space and access. The Plan identifies that over the next five years, a needs analysis for arts centres at Gungahlin and Woden will be undertaken to inform further infrastructure decisions.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Sincerely



Tara Cheyne MLA
16 November 2023