



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES

Jo Clay MLA (Chair), Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy), Mark Parton MLA

Submission No 51 -

Dr Katie Ryan Calvert

Inquiry into Giralang

Shops

Received - 07/04/21

Authorised - 06/05/21

On behalf of the Giralang Garden Collective I would like to make a submission to the public enquiry into the Giralang Shops.

In 2019 we established the Giralang Garden Collective (GGC), a sub-group of the Giralang Primary School Parents and Citizens Association. The vision of the GGC is to establish a large permaculture garden at Giralang Primary school that not only provides a resource for students to learn about sustainability and healthy eating, but also provides a place for community building and connection. A place where community can come together to attend workshops and events and contribute through working bees.

The Giralang community is one that actively seeks connection. This is evidenced through:

- The strong community buy-nothing group
- A busy community street library and share point.
- The numerous families that linger after school drop-offs and pick-ups to chat and be together.
- The many people who utilise the school grounds and adjacent ovals over the weekends.
- Christmas and Halloween street parties.
- Engagement in our garden project.

Whilst the progress of the garden has provided a positive opportunity for connection, what we constantly hear from our community while we are in the garden, and elsewhere in Giralang, is:

- How disappointing it is not to have local shops, a central point for connection.
- How sad it is that in front of our beloved school we have the eye-soar of an abandoned construction site.

The situation with the shops has had an impact on our garden project. In 2019 we undertook extensive fund-raising efforts to get the project off the ground. Whilst we benefited from the generosity of small local businesses, we felt disadvantaged by not having local shops when Coles Kaleen declined to partner with us. We approached Nikias Diamond and were really excited by Dimitri's enthusiasm to contribute to a fence for the garden, however this partnership never came to fruition. Progress has been slow, and it has been disappointing that we haven't been able to create partnerships with big local businesses.

Like everyone else in Giralang we desperately want to have our own local shops. We would love it if during a hard day of work in the garden we could treat ourselves to something more than a snack from the service station. We would love it if we could hold our meetings at a local café. We want to meet other parents and community members over a coffee after school drop off and get them engaged in our project. We want our kids to be able to grab a cold milkshake before they do an after school weeding session in the garden. We want to be able to stay late in the garden knowing that we can easily pick up supplies for dinner on the way home. We want to partner with businesses that are neighbours with our school and garden.

It's hard to believe that for every child at Giralang Primary School the shop site has been an abandoned construction zone for their entire lives.

We would like to see this inquiry into the Giralang shops go ahead regardless of whether a representative of Nikias Diamond attends. We would like an answer as to how the situation can be resolved and commitment that progress will happen.

Sincerely,

Dr Katie Ryan Calvert

