



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 67 -

Ms Domenica O'Dea

Inquiry into Giralang

Shops

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From: [REDACTED]
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To whom it may concern

Please look into the land banking that has been going on at the Giralang shops site for the past 15 years. It does not support the Belconnen and Giralang communities to allow developers to hold community assets for their own profit. Giralang would really benefit from a local shops. It is not good enough that the developers built a foundation/garage 5 years ago, which they have left open to weather. This is a transparent effort to hang onto the land despite having no plans to build on it. If the developers wanted to use the land, they would have done so in the past 15 years.

The developers evicted the tenants from shops site at the time they bought the land. Some of the tenants have gone on to be successful in other locations, e.g. the newsagents is now at Evatt and is doing well. The Evatt shops are doing well generally and are always busy. There is unfortunately a similar land banking situation going on at the McKellar shops, where the former McKellar shops site has been a derelict hole in the ground for about 15 years. Despite this, a Japanese restaurant is doing very well as a tenant near the former McKellar shops. The developer's claim that there aren't interested tenants is likely not true given the success of other small shops in the surrounding suburbs. I would be interested to know what rents the developer has proposed to potential tenants.

If it is really not possible to build and occupy shops at the Giralang shops site, please consider turning the land into green space so it can be enjoyed by the local community.

I am a young voter and own a home in McKellar. I want to see the ACT government serve the Belconnen community as it has promised to do by prioritising the needs of Giralang residents over the profits of developers.

I would like to see a similar inquiry into the land banking at the McKellar shops if possible.

I apologise for submitting this late. I hope you will still consider my submission as it is relevant.

Kind regards
Dom O'Dea

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