



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Standing Committee on Environment,
Planning, Transport and City Services

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Petition 002-25: Hawker Village shops redevelopment

Submission number: 032

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From:
To: [LA Committee - Environment](#)
Subject: COMMENTS ON WOOLWORTHS' PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE HAWKER SPRINGVALE DRIVE CARPARK
Date: Monday, 14 April 2025 9:41:00 PM

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Dear Committee Members,

We have concerns with Woolworths' proposal to purchase the Springvale Drive carpark at the Hawker shops for development for three main reasons: the proposed development is not needed; the proposed development will reduce shopper convenience; and the proposed development has the potential to increase risk to shoppers using the Hawker shops.

First, Woolworths requires the carpark to expand their store. It is suggested additional shops, offices and even housing would be included in the redevelopment. The immediate suburbs of Hawker, Page and Weetangera are already well served by three larger shopping centres at Belconnen Town Centre, Kippax Centre and Jamison Centre all within a three kilometre radius from the Hawker shops. Each of these centres has more than one supermarket; each includes a range of smaller shops, many of which are often empty as businesses fail due, at least in part, to poor patronage. Well designed, community focused smaller centres do encourage immediate community usage and provide a focal point for local community activity beyond that possible in larger, more impersonal centres. Population growth in the immediate suburbs around the Hawker shops will not be great as the surrounding suburbs are well established and, while there will be some growth in medium density housing as houses are sold, this population growth is unlikely to support yet another large shopping centre. This calls into question the need for the proposed development. Put simply, we fail to see that the proposed development utilising the Hawker carpark is warranted. The Hawker shopping area and surrounding community would be better served by well designed and executed redevelopment within the existing footprint.

Second, the current outdoor carpark is convenient for local shoppers, especially the more elderly for whom driving and parking can be a stressful experience. It provides quick, easy and ready access to the shops. Underground carpark introduce additional stresses on drivers in navigating entry, finding a car park, and on exit. This is especially so for more elderly drivers and those with vision issues. Elderly drivers are a large cohort of those who use the Hawker shops. Observation of driver behaviour at the Manuka and Belconnen Market underground carpark reinforces these comments.

Third, the open outdoor carpark helps to discourage car-related and carpark-

related crime. Underground car parks with their limited public visibility have the potential to increase this type of crime which is, regrettably, on the increase.

We are aware Woolworths has claimed that local consultation on their proposal did occur. We live less than 1.5 kilometres from the Hawker shops yet we were not aware of this claimed consultation, nor were we invited to provide our input through other means. We found out about the proposed development, including the purchase of the car park, from a Woolworths poster on the store window that created the impression the proposal was a foregone conclusion. We suggest more thorough, better targeted consultation to better identify and address issues, like those of the need for the development, shopper convenience and driver and shopper safety raised above, is required before a final decision is taken.

Yours sincerely,

Ken and Rhonda Jorgensen