



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: 041

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Date authorised for publication: 1 May 2025

From:

To: [LA Committee - Environment](#)

Subject: Submission to Inquiry into Petition 002-25: Hawker Village shops redevelopment

Date: Wednesday, 16 April 2025 11:09:18 AM

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To the Standing Committee on Environment, Planning, Transport and City Services, ACT legislative Assembly.

Dear Committee Members

As a homeowner who has lived in Hawker for the last 44 years, I write to register my concerns to the Woolworths' application for direct sale of public land including the Springvale Drive carpark to house a mega supermarket with underground parking.

The attraction of living in Hawker when we moved with a young family in 1981, was that the suburb was well resourced with a small shopping centre that included a Post office, a chemist, a newsagency, a medical and dental centre, public primary school, high school and college, a butcher, a supermarket, bakeries, cafes, takeaways, good restaurants, hairdressers and above all good accessibility and parking.

Now as a 74 years old living in Hawker, I see the benefits for my age group with everything we need near us and easy outdoor parking. As people are downsizing, moving into retirement homes, or dying, our homes are being bought by people with young families for whom the attraction remains the same as the one that brought us into the suburb.

Hawker is a few minutes' drive from the Belconnen markets, the Belconnen shopping Centre where there are three very large supermarkets including Woolworths, Coles and Aldi, plus other small businesses; the Jamison shopping centre where there are two large supermarkets: Coles and Aldi, and Kippax where there is a huge Woolworths.

It would be a mistake to have a mega supermarket in Hawker with underground parking at the expense of losing all the small businesses that cater for a young, diverse and ageing population. Even with the promise that existing small businesses would be given priority when the expansion would be completed, the reality is that those businesses will have to close during the construction period and may never reopen. There may be other businesses that will be chosen by the supermarket not to be in competition with them. The fabric of the Hawker village shopping area would be changed for the worse. We all know about the power the duopoly has with pricing which is concerned with returns on investments rather with what is best for the community.

The Hawker Village shopping area is in need of a refreshment and filling of the vacant spaces. Some small businesses have been pushed out and new businesses

are not willing to take over leases as there is uncertainty of their survival in a forthcoming period of construction.

Long-term residents of Hawker including my family, throughout the years have supported and continue to support our local businesses including the supermarket. We have also maintained and updated our homes. It would be good for Woolworths to do the same. The Woolworths [Metro] supermarket in Hawker needs a refresh and an update. It is rundown in comparison with other supermarkets in the area and it is understaffed.

I sincerely hope that the redevelopment of the Hawker Village shopping centre keeps the infrastructure and diversity of services and businesses that make Hawker such a special suburb.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration

With best wishes

Nancy Sever