



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: 050

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From:
To: [LA Committee - Environment](#)
Subject: Hawker Shops
Date: Thursday, 17 April 2025 8:51:40 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my discontent with the plans to sell the Springvale Drive car park and other surrounding public land to Woolworths.

The government should not be selling the Springvale Drive car park and/or other public land at the Hawker Village shops to a company well known for attempting to monopolise the market and to price gouge. This isn't a company working with the people or community in mind. In the almost two decades I've lived in the area, I have never seen the car park even close to filled at any point in time. Basement parking is not a solution to a problem, it is instead a solution created for an imaginary problem all with the intention of giving Woolworths more control and money over the Australian people, in this instance the people living in Hawker and the surrounding areas. We look to the Hawker shops for convenience and ease of quick shopping, not to have essentially a mall strip. By selling this land to Woolworths, we'd be seeing the land turned into a profit-driven conglomerate, with no thought for the community and its needs.

Woolworths is currently planning on moving the outdoor dining area and children's play area nearer to Springvale Drive. This is a hazard to safety. The speed limit on Springvale Drive is 60 km/h, and 40 km/h is considered the transition speed where if a pedestrian is hit below that speed, they are more likely to survive. These chances almost double with each 5 km/h increase in speed. If we move the children's play area closer to Springvale Drive, we are asking for an increase in accidents, especially accidents involving children. This is not something the government should be endorsing. As it is, the children's play area is safe for children, surrounded by shops and not a 60 km/h road.

Hawker and its surrounding suburbs are above all family oriented, with plenty of children and elderly people alike. The Hawker shops are a reflection of such, with everything easily accessible for the elderly, and a playground tucked away so as to not be close to the road. As the current Woolworths Metro is quite small, it allows for easier shopping, as it is quiet and one level, from the shops, to the car park. There's minimal distance to travel, which is paramount for people with low mobility.

Because it is quiet, it also makes a great place to shop for neurodivergent people who can easily get overwhelmed in busy and overcrowded places, such as malls. Hawker shops are a pinnacle of the quiet, family oriented lifestyles of the people it serves.

Furthermore, the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Environment, Planning, Transport and City Services should consider the environmental impact of such a project, how many fossil fuels will be used in the construction, as opposed to keeping it the open area that it currently is, with plenty of trees and nature. The government should instead be looking to upgrade and improve within the existing footprint of the centre, keeping it accessible to all.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you consider the proposal and scrutinise it's worth.

Regards,
Bec