



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: 024

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Date authorised for publication: 1 May 2025

From:
To: [LA Committee - Environment](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submission to Inquiry into Hawker Shops
Date: Monday, 14 April 2025 1:27:35 PM

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Inquiry into Petition 002-25: Hawker Village shops redevelopment

Submission

My wife and I are Age Pensioners and for the past 25 years we have done most of our shopping at the Hawker Village shopping centre. The centre as it stands is convenient to access and the range of shops cater for most of our shopping needs. My wife has very limited mobility so we use the car for our shopping. We prefer to park in the existing Springvale Drive car park as it provides safe and ready access to nearby Woolworths Metro store and we don't have to cross the road to do so.

We are alarmed at the prospect of losing access to this car park as it will severely impact on our ability to use Hawker Village for our shopping needs. We would probably have to travel further afield to Jamison Coles or Aldi.

The current redevelopment plans appear to prioritise residential housing over the primary purpose of the shopping centre. There is ample farmland in the Belconnen area which could be acquired to meet the demand for more housing. There is no reason why the existing buildings could not be redeveloped without taking over the carpark.

Building over carparks has been shown to have catastrophic results in other locations and we are worried that the same will happen to Hawker. The Dickson shops is an obvious example. Once the car park was gone, the residents simply stopped going there.

Businesses went broke and the once thriving centre is now semi-derelict.

Another example is the mess they made of the Belconnen Fresh Food Markets. In that case a large open carpark was sold off for yet another block of flats. We now have a cramped underground carpark which is dangerous to exit and has no pedestrian access to the street. Once again, businesses are struggling to attract customers, largely because the available parking is unsatisfactory.

But the worst example of parking chaos is at both of Canberra's public hospitals. This is not the place to go into it here, but the situation is an utter disgrace which the Government must address as a matter of urgency.

Peter Ellett
