



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: 051

Submitter: Tania Kriticos

Date authorised for publication: 1 May 2025

From:
To: [LA Committee - Environment](#)
Subject: Hawker Village Shops Redevelopment
Date: Thursday, 17 April 2025 10:30:55 AM

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns that the proposed development to Woolworths and the Hawker Village Shops will have a significant negative impact on the local community.

The government should not sell the Springvale Drive car park and/or other public land at the Hawker Village shops to Woolworths. This company is not in the slightest bit interested in working with people, and it certainly does not have the community in mind – Woolworths is 100% profit-oriented. In the two and a half decades I have lived in the area and frequented this shopping area for any number of reasons at all times of the day, none of the various car parks has ever been even half-full, and the current Woolworths has never been overcrowded. There is absolutely no need for a larger grocery shop or more parking here.

The current Metro Woolworths is small; however, shoppers who live in Hawker/Weetangera requiring a larger supermarket go either to Jamison or Westfield Belconnen (where there is a large Woolworths, if that is their grocery shop of preference), within a maximum of 5-10 minutes' drive. Having seen what happened to the Belconnen markets, redeveloping the Hawker shops in a similar manner would be disastrous. I no longer shop at the Belconnen Markets, and neither do many of my friends, because it is so user-unfriendly in everything from the underground carpark to the awkward interior. We do not need another, larger, shopping complex in our quiet neighbourhood, and it makes no economic sense to further expand the current Woolworths Metro when there are already five large grocery stores so close by. For the handful of residents who might use it, the cost is exorbitant and, and the money would be far better used for other community benefit schemes.

The proposed development is highly unlikely to be disability-friendly and equitable. For those who work during the week and require a low sensory environment to shop in, there is no alternative elsewhere else in the neighbourhood – the designated sensory-friendly hours at Westfield are by and large useless. The Hawker Village Shops are incredibly important in that they are smaller, with more open space, less foot traffic and far less noise than a larger supermarket. A larger supermarket and the proposed associated development will be far noisier and difficult to access for

the neurodivergent community, the elderly, and young children. The current configuration of the Hawker Village Shops means that there are no stairs to climb or lifts to wait for, and no unfriendly underground car park to navigate – we all get some fresh air instead of being confined entirely indoors.

The plan to relocate the outdoor dining area and children's play area nearer to Springvale Drive is a safety hazard. Moving the children's play area closer to Springvale Drive is likely to result in increased accidents, especially those involving children. The current children's play area is safe, as it is surrounded by shops. If this play area is considered inadequate, it wouldn't take significant funding to improve it and make it more attractive. However, relocating a children's play area closer to a main road is not something the government should be endorsing.

The Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Environment, Planning, Transport and City Services should also consider the full environmental impact of such a project, in terms of construction costs (fossil fuel costs, additional greenhouse gas emissions, etc.), loss of open spaces and trees. We do not want to live in a concrete jungle. The government should instead be looking to upgrade and improve the existing footprint of the centre, keeping it flat, open air, and accessible to all.

As they are, the Hawker Village Shops cater precisely to the quiet, family-oriented lifestyles of the people they currently serve. It's all in the name: the Hawker Village Shops will cease to be the local village shops if redevelopment proceeds as per Woolworths' proposal.

Thank you,
Tania Kriticos
Weetangera Resident