



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES

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Submission No 20 -

Mr Austin Kenney

Inquiry into Giralang Shops

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No doubt there are numerous possible uses for the site of the former shops including retail, residential and community facilities. However, It is unlikely that this site will be anything other than a hole in the ground while the lease remains with the current leaseholder.

I recognise that the ACT Government have previously taken steps, including the use of call in powers and contested court processes, to try to resolve the impasse. Sadly this has not been successful.

It is hard to imagine a justification for a business holding a lease of this nature and not using it for its intended purpose. This is particularly the case when one considers the safety issues, the eye sore and the lack of potential amenity for the community. Giralang is already poorly served compared to neighbouring suburbs with neglect of footpaths and public spaces generally. We have even lost our direct bus route to civic. It is time the ACT Government prioritised this area.

The lack of footfall around the school has meant that a number of years ago we lost our GP service, we are fortunate that so far the petrol station has managed to hang on.

The time has come to end the lease and find a new leaseholder for the Giralang shops site. Action should now be taken to end the lease.

Austin Kenney

