



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: 061

Submitter: Daren Kriticos

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From:
To: [LA Committee - Environment](#)
Subject: Hawker Village Shops
Date: Thursday, 17 April 2025 7:52:43 PM

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Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed development involving the sale of the public carpark to Woolworths for creating a medium-sized shopping centre at the Hawker Village Shops.

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

The existing shops are appropriately sized to meet local demand. Constructing a larger shop will inevitably attract increased traffic from a broader area, thereby diminishing local amenities. I do not support the development of another medium-sized shopping complex in our quiet neighbourhood, particularly given the presence of five large grocery stores in close proximity. The proposal is designed specifically to attract more car traffic into the area from a broader catchment. We do not want a busier area! We don't want more traffic here! The public transport network here is woeful.

The proposed development will inevitably be less disability friendly. For individuals who work during the week and crave a low sensory environment for shopping, there is no alternative available in the neighbourhood – the designated sensory-friendly hours at Westfield are largely ineffective. The Hawker Village Shops are significant as they are smaller, with more open space, less foot traffic, and less noise than a larger supermarket. A larger supermarket and the proposed associated development will likely be noisier and harder to access for the neurodivergent community, the elderly, and young children.

As someone who drives a 4WD with a roof rack, accessing underground car parks is problematical. The trend towards lowering heights on underground car parks either makes them inaccessible, or at least anxiety creating when driving a 4WD.

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. The plan to relocate the outdoor dining area and children's play area nearer to Springvale Drive is a safety hazard. This part of the plan also speaks to the cynicism of the proponents, moving the play area to the least attractive and least valuable part of the centre.

For these reasons, I urge you to decline the proposed development and to preserve the attractive character and accessibility of the Hawker Village Shops.

Kind regards,
Prof. Darren Kriticos
Weetangera Resident