



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES

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Submission No 42 -

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Inquiry into Giralang

Shops

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Hello,

As a long term resident of Giralang, I just want to present a couple of opinions and impressions from talking with neighbours.

Firstly, we are regularly told that what residents want is a large supermarket, and that the limitation to a smaller 1000sqm is the sticking point. I don't think this is true. I understand that a large supermarket is what the developer wants but I believe what many residents want is a small boutique shopping centre. Eg a bakery, butchery, cafe, newsagent, maybe wine bar, etc. Ideally there would be a small IGA style shop for the basics but the truth is that this area has no need for another large supermarket. Giralang is flanked either side with a Coles in Kaleen and a Supabarn in Crace, it's hard to see how another large supermarket would be viable and I believe this is why the developer is having trouble securing such a tenant.

Secondly, residents do not want a high density apartment housing block as part of the development. Such a development is not consistent with the character of Giralang and more suited to town centres. Giralang is a largely single dwelling suburb and functioning well as such so no need to change that character.

Thirdly, I believe that if securing tenancy of a large footprint supermarket or even a reduced footprint one is what the developer requires to proceed, then it's time to pull the pin on them. They've had long enough to attempt to get what they want. I consider it's time for the ACT Government to buy back the land from the developer and proceed with an alternative development, one more suitable to the site and suburb.

Thanks very much,
Nicola Aitken

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