



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES

Jo Clay MLA (Chair), Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy), Mark Parton MLA

Submission No 62 -

Ms Kathryn Dan

Inquiry into Giralang

Shops

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From: [REDACTED]
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I write to urge the ACT Assembly to seek an explanation from the developer about lack of progress with the development including shops, and assurances about ensuring the site is safe for community members. If a satisfactory response is not made by the developer in a timely fashion, I urge the ACT Assembly to seek alternative mechanisms to achieve the outcome of a safe community centre for the suburb of Giralang, including community and retail facilities.

I first lived in Giralang through the 1990s and enjoyed the amenities of the suburb designed, as were many Canberra suburbs, to have facilities including schools at a central point within walking distance of most residents. These facilities included the playing fields, shops and school and community places. All were convenient and well used. After some time away I returned several years ago with my family to live in the suburb which still has many good features but is lacking that community centre and amenity that it once had. When returning I saw positive coverage suggesting that the development, including rectification of local shops, was proceeding. This was good news but unfortunately not only has nothing happened, the site of the previous shops and proposed development has fallen even further into disrepair. It is now unsafe.

As a local resident my concerns about the site are:

- the demolition of shops and no satisfactory replacement has left the suburb without local and community facilities
- there has been no action on the site and no maintenance of it for several years meaning that it has become completely derelict and dangerous. Fencing is not maintained, rubbish is dumped, concrete reinforcing is exposed. It is not only ugly but a hazard. This is particularly serious given its proximity to the primary school, child care centre and sports fields.
- there has been no progress on any development and no communication
- there is an obvious disregard from the owner/developer
- this area should provide facilities for the Giralang community, a suburb that is placed centrally to new developments in Lawson and near Evatt that are likely to bring greater population and demands

At minimum this area must be made safe. If the developer is unwilling or unable to progress activity on the site it should be relinquished for other recreational and community purposes. Why not test the market by supporting pop-up food and drink facilities, for example?

Currently the area is shamefully neglected and I urge the committee to fully enquire into options for rectifying this situation.

Kathryn Dan
[REDACTED]

