



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES

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

Submission No 13 -

Mr James Forwood

Inquiry into Giralang

Shops

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [LA Committee - PTCS](#)  
**Subject:** Inquiry into Giralang shops  
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Dear Jo Clay MLA

My partner and I recently purchased a house in Giralang in late 2019 and quickly became aware of the ongoing issues regarding the Giralang shops.

While we are relatively new to this issue it is truly surprising the amount of time that has passed with an apparent lack of progress for the shops, or communication with the local residents of Giralang. Since moving in to our home we have only received one flyer from the developer advising us that they were unable to secure a tenant for the supermarket. I understand that this has been a long standing issue and the TOR for this inquiry is to seek an update from the developer but there has also been no communication or accountability from the ACT government on this issue.

As the development site sits on a main street running through Giralang, we have the constant reminder that no progress has been made on this issue. The underdeveloped site is a major hazard (I almost rolled my ankle in a pot hole next to the side walk when walking the dog), and is an embarrassment for the local residents to constantly be subjected to. The fencing does not restrict entry into the 'construction site' and is located next to a primary school when kids regularly play, which is inevitably going to end in tragedy. There is a plethora of photographic evidence of open fences, piles of building materials (both inside and outside the construction site) and evidence of vandalism throughout the premises.

If no progression is able to be made in a reasonable timeframe and the land remains undeveloped, then the developer should be responsible for the removal of the old foundations (any new construction would surely require the removal of the old foundations anyway). If the developer is unable to fund this removal, the land should be taken by the ACT government and repurposed into something the Giralang community can actually use and that would add to the value of the suburb. All this site does at the moment is continue to harm the property market in Giralang and present an ongoing and very serious safety hazard for residents.

I am requesting that this inquiry be expanded, so that the Giralang community can also receive an update from the Planning, Transport, and City Services Committee as to the current status of the land, the basis for the decision to restrict the floor space of the supermarket (which we are told by the developer limited their ability to find a suitable tenant) or strategies the ACT government is taking to resolve the current situation with the developer. As it stands, the current lack of accountability or care by the ACT Labour government and our local member (Suzanne Orr) is disappointing, and resulted in us not voting for her at the last election. Our only hope is that the lack of progress during Suzanne's last 4 year tenure does not repeat for her current term.

Regards

James Forwood

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