



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 43 -

Ms Amy Pepper

Inquiry into Giralang

Shops

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From: [REDACTED]
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Hi,

I am writing to voice my ongoing frustration and concern about the neglected development space in Giralang. I have been a member of the Giralang community for over 20 years. I have a young family with two children who attend Giralang Primary School.

Over the years I have watched the shop site change from a community hub, to derelict and abandon buildings, and now to the current dangerous abandoned construction site. The site is unsafe and an unacceptable eyesore. I have seen children and teenagers within the site, and I wonder will we only see action once something serious has happened and someone is injured.

Our community has been deprived of cafes, restaurants and services that benefit community wellbeing and connection. I know of elderly residents in the townhouses across the street from the site who originally bought their homes with the knowledge that services and shops would be close by. Parents of young children have no spaces for gathering for playgroups or support groups. The Primary School, that is a stones throw away from the site, suffers from the lack of engaged local businesses to support it. Generations of Giralang children have been deprived of riding to their local shops to spend their pocket money. In its current state, the site does not serve the community and limits social and economic opportunities. Our community deserves better!

I have been disheartened by the lack of action but also the lack of care for our community. We have been powerless to create the community that we deem appropriate. There is a strong desire for the community to have meeting places such as cafes and restaurants and to have alternative options for buying fresh produce. We would like to see community services - doctors, hairdressers, NDIS providers, etc - rather than more appartments. The community is worn-out from this saga and feel powerless at our lack of choice. Both the government and the leasee need to be accountable for their lack of action and compassion for the Giralang community. Real choice needs to be available. Choices need to be made based on serving the community rather than creating wealth for the developer. This inquiry must go ahead even if the developer chooses not to attend.

Regards,

Amy Pepper
[REDACTED]