



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: 027

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Submission to Inquiry into Petition 002-25: Hawker Village shops redevelopment

Dear ACT Government.

I've lived within walking distance to Hawker Group Shopping Centre since before it was first built but I like many other locals now cross town to shop at places like Supabarn Kingston, or Harris Farm Market. Since Woolworths have taken over from IGA, they have run the place down to be the worst shopping centre in Canberra and most consider the worst Woolworths store in the region.

I would remind everyone that Hawker Shopping Centre was intended to have greater gravitas than your average suburban shop and it provided this sense of belonging and service to the wider community over generations, up until Woolworths took over.

I mention Supabarn Kingston because it should be the benchmark in dealing with similar obstacles as Hawker, such as parking and urban multi story residential developments. The biggest endorsement is to hear Kingston residents proudly referring to Supabarn as "Our Shop" but I'm left to imagine that it's my shop also.

Hawker needs a reinvention for the future and Belconnen deserves the former diverse shopping options it once had. If Hawker Village shops are to remain in ownership by Woolworths, then they should be encouraged to restore a new gravitas to provide the best contemporary group village shopping experience. Where it can become the place where others are attracted into reimagining Hawker as "Our Shop" too.

Kind regards

Robert Bleyerveen

Voice-to-Text

Sent from my Mobile

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