



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: 036

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From:
To: [LA Committee - Environment](#)
Subject: Hawker shops development
Date: Tuesday, 15 April 2025 2:20:08 PM

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Dear Committee representatives

If have lived in Hawker since 2006. I am opposed to the sale of the Hawker shops Springvale Dve car park to Woolworths for a few reasons:

1. About 50 years of ad hoc decisions by planning authorities all over Australia, like the current Woolworths proposal for Hawker, have resulted in one of the least (by some measures the least) competitive supermarket sectors in the world. Woolworths should never have been permitted to buy the IGA, and should not be permitted to enlarge the supermarket since every single decision of this nature lessens competition and provides the opportunity for Woolworths to increase their market share even further. If the supermarket had been bought by another operator I would probably not have such strong objections to the proposal.
2. Hawker is not a shopping precinct like Jamison or Kippax. It is a suburban shopping centre. A full size supermarket is more than the suburb requires and will increase traffic flows. There are 7 full sized supermarkets within 5 km at Belconnen, Kippax and Jamison. If there is increased need for a supermarket due to the development of Whitlam then perhaps the infrastructure could be located there.
3. One of the requirements of a suburban shopping centre is convenience. Underground parking is not convenient and will involve more time, stairs or escalators/moving walkways.
4. Land sales of this nature are a fundamentally flawed way to fund government services. Taxation should be increased if current levels of funding are insufficient to fund services. Future generations deserve better than to have no remaining public land, and be encumbered with massive increases in the rate of taxation because previous generations refused to levy an appropriate rate of taxation to fund the services they thought necessary.

Kind regards

Geoff Robertson