



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Standing Committee on Environment
and Planning

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Petition 002-25: Hawker Village shops redevelopment

Submission number: 071

Submitter: Hawker Community Landcare

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Hawker Shops have been in decline for a long time and are in need of reinvigoration. But Hawker is also a community of people that have been trying to create something beautiful and welcoming. The Hawker Community Landcare group have been running the community garden which is open access to everyone as a green spot for people to use. Hawker community also runs seasonal markets at the shops, which have received very positive feedback.

So while we are in favour of the development, we are concerned about what it will look like and the extent it will be an ugly concrete development that is all about profit and nothing about people.

The previous plans looked like they had not taken into consideration Canberra's climate with areas creating the potential for windtunnels, and buildings shading the open areas in winter. Most of the plantings look like they will just be individual plants in pots, so not very natural. Also the playground seemed close to the road, which has a twofold effect, one) to make it safe it will need to be fenced (concerned that the fencing may end up being a high wall along the footpath), and two), the only green areas appear to be right next the roads (i.e. noise and pollution) therefore making them not a nice place to be in for people. But the solution is not to wall it in.

Dickson shop renovation is an example of an unfriendly-people solution. The footpaths abutt the wall of the complex which is a massive heatsink in summer and very austere for the rest of the year and growing some plants up a trellis is not a solution.

Pedestrian access is also a concern and I cite the recent Belconnen markets as a prime example of not taking people into account. They completely lacked safe entry for people walking into the complex and had to retrofit the site to make it safer. All sorts of people come to Hawker including a lot of people on foot, mums pushing strollers, pensioners, kids coming from the surrounding schools and people crossing from the carparks.

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