



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES

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Submission No 44 -

Mr Murray Brown

Inquiry into Giralang

Shops

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INQUIRY INTO GIRALANG SHOPS

SUBMISSION

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It's time to end this farcical situation.

I purchased a townhouse diagonally opposite the development site three and a half years ago. I live opposite the 7Eleven Mobil service station and I am therefore accustomed to the traffic generated by the only commercial outlet in the suburb.

The Giralang shops development would return retail activity to the suburb after a long hiatus. While I supported the development in principle, I would have liked it to be lower in height and argued that it should have been positioned further forward on the Canopus Crescent site by removing the proposed off-street parking. This would have maximised the amenity of the north-facing site for cafes and other people-friendly businesses.

I was heartened by the erection of the sales office on the Atalumba Close corner and pleased by the number of visitors in the short period it was open. But it was not to be. The open letter to residents from the developer a year ago was the death knell. It was clear the developer is not able to proceed.

Now that the development is at a stalemate, despite assistance from the ACT Government and support from the community, I believe the only option is for the developer to sell the development to someone who is able see it through. As it stands the approved DA is a viable commercial proposition. What is lacking is a developer with the right set of skills to make it happen.

Pending that move, the unsightly and redundant sales office should be removed as quickly as possible.

It is ironic that the local community so strongly supports this approved development and opposes the developer's inaction. This is a city where too often developers appear to have the upper hand.

The time for talking is over. The community demands action.



Murray Brown

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