



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: 020

Submitter: Erika Contis

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From:
To: [LA Committee - Environment](#)
Subject: Objection to sale and redevelopment of Hawker Shops
Date: Sunday, 13 April 2025 11:35:17 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing as a long-time resident of Hawker—over 50 years now—and as someone in their 90s who still lives independently in this community. I am deeply concerned about the proposal to sell the Springvale Drive carpark and nearby public land to Woolworths for redevelopment.

Hawker Village is more than just a shopping area for people like me—it's a vital part of our daily lives. The current above-ground carpark is easy to access, safe, and close to the shops. These things matter a great deal, especially for older residents who may not be able to walk long distances or navigate underground carparks. I rely on the simplicity and convenience of this layout to stay active and connected.

The idea of replacing this with a large-scale development—possibly with underground parking, office space, and housing—worries me. Not only would this change the friendly, open feel of the village, but it would also cause years of disruption. I can't imagine how people like me would manage if access to shops and services were restricted for months or even years during construction.

What troubles me most is that this decision seems to be happening without much involvement from the community. After so many years of living here and contributing to the area, it's hard not to feel that our voices are being left out. I understand that cities grow and change, but surely that can be done with respect for the people who live here and depend on the services already in place.

There has also been no public discussion of more modest improvements—upgrading what we already have without taking away public land or changing the nature of the village.

I respectfully urge you to reject or suspend the proposed sale until:

1. A comprehensive and independent cost-benefit analysis is published;
2. A robust community consultation process is undertaken; and
3. Viable options for improving the current centre and carpark, without significant development or privatisation, are properly considered.

Kind regards

Erika