



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES

Jo Clay MLA (Chair), Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy), Mark Parton MLA

Submission No 65 -

Ms Lee-Ann Swift

Inquiry into Giralang

Shops

Received - 08/04/21

Authorised - 06/05/21

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Planning Transport, and City Services
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Committee Secretary

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission into the inquiry into Giralang shops. My brief submission is below.

Submissions already published by the Committee consider the history, causes and challenges of the redevelopment of the Giralang shops. The problems appear to be complex, contested and entrenched. I hope this inquiry is able to provide an improved and shared understanding of the problems which have prevented the redevelopment of the Giralang shops from proceeding and can provide recommendations which address this long-standing problem.

The absence of shops and the state of the building site is an eyesore, safety hazard and ever present reminder of the long running failure to manage the redevelopment. Because of this failure, the Giralang community has suffered the worst of both worlds – the old shops have been demolished but nothing has been constructed to replace them.

There is a thriving community in the Giralang suburb, with a vibrant “Buy Nothing” and community noticeboard social media groups, street libraries and produce sharepoints. The shops site should be used in a way that furthers and promotes the Giralang community, as well as providing a speedy remedy to the current intolerable situation.

Creativity may be required to address this long running issue. If the prompt construction of a standard suburban shopping centre is not possible, as an interim measure the developer could be required to clear the site and then facilities be installed to support a smaller version of ‘the hamlet’. This could include a few truck/shipping container-based businesses, including a café, shared undercover seating and other options such as a takeaway, bar, bakery, and flexible pop-up space. Nevertheless, the ultimate goal must remain the restoration of established shopping facilities to the community.

I implore the ACT Government to implement whatever measures are necessary to restore shops to the Giralang community.

Yours sincerely

Lee-Ann Swift

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