



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: 031

Submitter: Fran Rhodes

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From:
Subject: Hawker Village shops redevelopment proposal by WW
Date: 14 April 2025 at 19:49
To: LAcommitteeEnvironment@parliament.act.gov.au

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Dear Planning Committee,

I write in response to the call for comments on Woolworths' redevelopment proposal for Hawker Village Shops.

I wish to register my opposition to the proposal.

Belconnen Mall is just 2kms from the Hawker shops and offers several full-line supermarkets, alongside many other businesses. Belconnen Mall is within walking distance of Hawker Village shopping centre. Woolworths also has a full-line supermarket at Kippax Fair, just 4kms away from Hawker Village. It is unnecessary to add another Woolworths full-line supermarket so close to Belconnen Mall and Kippax Centre. Woolworths' presence would be too overbearing in this area.

The biggest attraction of Hawker Village shopping centre and existing parking options, is that it is relaxed, no-fuss, convenient and stress-free. For this reason, and to avoid the 'rush rush' expedition-like experience of the Belconnen Mall, I regularly and often use the Hawker Village shopping centre in preference to the Belconnen Mall. The redevelopment proposed by Woolworths would change the character of the Hawker Village shopping centre and turn every visit into an expedition - an unnecessary and most unwelcome change.

Changing the character of Hawker Village will drive custom away, either to Belconnen Mall or to one of the other non-expedition 'local' shopping centres - Jamison Centre 3kms away or Kippax Fair 4kms away. Belconnen Mall offers more comprehensive shopping options than Hawker, including a full-line Woolworths. I am so strongly against the Woolworths' redevelopment proposal that, if the proposal proceeds, I will withdraw my custom from Woolworths altogether. I am certain I am not alone in this stance. Unfortunately, this will impact the other Hawker Village businesses I regularly and often use - a very unfair consequence indeed, particularly in the current financial environment.

Any acceptable alternative to the current proposal would need to retain the existing no-fuss convenience and 'local suburban' character of Hawker Village centre, and the existing parking areas.

Yours sincerely
Fran Rhodes