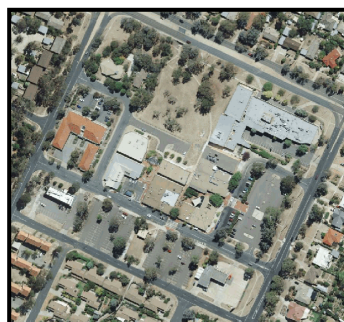


Response to the ACT Government's Proposed Changes to Hawker Shops

Report of a public meeting hosted by Alistair Coe MLA and Vicki Dunne MLA at Christ Church, Hawker on 8 July 2010



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Alistair Coe MLA



Vicki Dunne MLA

Mr Jon Stanhope MLA
Chief Minister
Member for Ginninderra
ACT Legislative Assembly
Canberra ACT 2600

cc Mary Porter MLA

Dear Mr Stanhope,

Due to concerns expressed to us as Members for Ginninderra about your Government's proposal to replace the car parks at Hawker Shops with buildings, we conducted a public meeting to hear the community's concerns.

Whilst all Canberrans were welcome to attend, we specifically invited residents of Hawker, Weetangera, Page and Scullin.

At the meeting, many issues were raised about the proposal and the process used to engage with the community. The key points raised at the meeting are included in this report.

We hope you will give due consideration to the views expressed at the meeting and at other forums.

We ask that you respond to the issues raised and we look forward to hearing of your plans for the centre.

Yours sincerely,

Alistair Coe MLA

Vicki Dunne MLA

Meeting Invitation

(Distributed to letterboxes in early July)



Alistair Coe MLA



Vicki Dunne MLA

Changes to Hawker Shops

Dear Resident,

On Thursday 8 July, we will host a meeting in Hawker to discuss the Government's proposed changes to the arrangements at Hawker Shops.

We are very concerned about the lack of consultation and the way in which the Government has handled this issue.

Meeting details:

Date: 8 July 2010
Time: 6:30pm to 8:00pm
Venue: Christ Church, Hawker Place, Hawker

At the meeting, we will hear and note your thoughts about the Government's proposed changes. We will then send a copy of the meeting notes to the Land Development Agency and Government Members for Ginninderra, Mr Stanhope and Ms Porter.

We are keen to make sure that users of Hawker Shops get a say on the future of your centre.

Please contact us on 6205 0101 if you have any questions.

We hope to see you on Thursday.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Alistair Coe'.

Alistair Coe MLA
Member for Ginninderra

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Vicki Dunne'.

Vicki Dunne MLA
Member for Ginninderra

Civic Square, London Circuit, Canberra, ACT, 2600
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Meeting Notes

The following are views that were expressed at the meeting by users of the Hawker shops. They do not necessarily represent the views of all the attendees, nor of Alistair Coe or Vicki Dunne. The sentiments are recorded in the order in which they were presented at the meeting.

1. The proposal for Hawker shops could become a precedent for many other shopping centres across Canberra.
2. The idea of having 500,000 people living in Canberra by 2050 is not sustainable.
3. The Hawker centre is unique in that it is smaller than other group centres such as Jamison or Kippax, but larger than local shopping centres. As such, Hawker should not be treated in the same way as these other centres.
4. Hawker would benefit from a masterplan and a retail study.
5. Suburban infill should not destroy the existing environment, but should add to the amenity and sustainability of the location.
6. Shopkeepers will be severely inconvenienced during the construction phase of any development.
7. One of the key benefits of the Hawker shops is the ability to get in and get out quickly. If this is compromised, shoppers may go elsewhere.
8. Canberra has been known as the bush capital, yet urban infill risks destroying this reality.
9. Hawker is a good site for 'Park and Ride' facilities, but if the car park is removed, this will no longer be an option.
10. Residents should pursue the idea of appointing a community committee to work with the government to come up with an option derived from genuine community consultation.
11. Residents are concerned that consultation has not taken place. If there had been better consultation, the community may not be in the precarious situation that they are currently experiencing.
12. Hawker has become the local shopping centre for a wider range of people than just the immediate area. Not enough consideration has been given to other development options.

13. Increased activity and development on the car park sites may make the roads around the centre more dangerous.
14. Hawker is a good centre because of the range of retailers and the ease of shopping.
15. Car parking is an issue across Canberra. There needs to be a plan for the whole city to ensure that flow and convenience enable businesses to prosper. We cannot collapse into gridlock and expect businesses to survive.
16. There are concerns that the proposed infill may not be able to be served by the current infrastructure.
17. What is proposed is not just development, but the transfer of ownership from government to private enterprise. It is likely that private enterprise will not provide, or be required to provide, adequate infrastructures.
18. This is a 'money grab' by the government and the information from the LDA is not satisfactory.
19. The car park will be sold unless there is a huge outcry.
20. There is additional land in Weetangera near the shops that could be developed.
21. More growth will not solve the problems of growth. The land here is already developed and is developed as a car park. Due to oil supplies, vehicular transport will become more critical; we need development on the basis of creating the infrastructure that provides local shops close to where people live.
22. Aged care workers take elderly people to Hawker because of the convenience of the parking and the range of shops. We need to be able to park near the services. Public transport will not provide for the needs for an ageing population.
23. The LDA is trying to win over retailers, one retailer at a time.
24. Elderly people struggle to park at Jamison, Belconnen Mall and Kippax due to the size and crowds at these centres, so Hawker is an attractive centre to visit.
25. The streets around Hawker are already dangerous and better crossing facilities are needed already.
26. Many people bought houses in the area because of the good local services and it would be a tragedy if these services are taken away or can no longer operate.

27. The Hawker centre is a safe place to bring children. If it is overloaded through the proposed development, it will no longer be family- and children-friendly.
28. If the car parks are removed, it is likely that the old trees will be removed too.
29. The full impact of the development has not been taken into consideration.
30. The current situation is due to dysfunctional land release and dysfunctional planning – there may be a hidden agenda. Jamison is under pressure from the loss of space and car parking. The LDA did not like the HOTA (Hawker Owners and Traders Association) group because of the strength of its opposition and the fact that it was representing all interest groups. If car parks are taken away, the heart of the shopping centre will go too.
31. We are not sure if all of the car parks on the existing blocks will be removed. There are too many vagaries. We need clarity and genuine information.
32. The car parks could be sold and the development application might differ from what is currently proposed.
33. Could there be a joint development so that the outcomes are controlled?

Poll of those present

At the meeting, a straw poll of those present took place to gauge the attendees' views on the best way to proceed. The results of the poll are below.

Proposal	Number of People
<i>I would like to see both car parks developed (even if no other infrastructure work is undertaken)</i>	0
<i>I would like to see both car parks developed on the condition that the Government does additional infrastructure work</i>	5
<i>I would like to see one car park developed (even if no other infrastructure work is undertaken)</i>	0
<i>I would like to see one car park developed on the condition that the Government does additional infrastructure work</i>	5
<i>I would like to see neither car park developed</i>	79
<i>Abstained</i>	8