



Chris Steel MLA

Treasurer

Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Minister for Heritage

Minister for Transport

Member for Murrumbidgee

Tom Duncan

Clerk

ACT Legislative Assembly

196 London Circuit

CANBERRA ACT 2601

By email: tom.duncan@act.gov.au

Dear Clerk

I refer to Petition 002-25 titled 'Hawker village shops redevelopment' tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 6 February 2025.

The ACT Government is aware of the community interest in the proposal and direct sale application by Woolworths Group Limited for land within the Hawker Group Centre.

The direct sale application proposes the acquisition of several blocks of unleased Territory land, including a road reserve (Hawker Place) and the adjoining surface car park, Block 26 Section 33 Hawker. Refer to site 1 in [Figure 1](#) below. The land is zoned CZ1 Core Zone. The Woolworths proposal is to expand the existing supermarket to a large format 'full line' supermarket with additional retail space in the Hawker Group Centre. Woolworths already owns land within the Hawker Group Centre.

As I noted in my Ministerial Statement to the Legislative Assembly on 4 March 2025, after careful consideration of the current direct sale application, the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) has advised Woolworths that the proposal in its current form does not meet the Government's strategic objectives, policy setting or community benefit for key mixed-use commercial group centres.

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EPSDD has written to Woolworths to clarify the position and expectations outlined above and has offered to meet with the proponent in good faith, to provide reasonable opportunity for a revised proposal which more closely aligns with the Government's and community's expectations for the site. This correspondence has been acknowledged by Woolworths. EPSDD has also asked Woolworths to engage meaningfully with the community on any revised proposal.

Separately and independent to the direct sale application, ESPDD is undertaking a range of planning and technical studies at the Hawker Group Centre as part of Group and Local Centres work. Territory owned sites at the Hawker Group Centre are indicated in [Figure 1](#) below. These works will also include assessment of remanent trees and potential contamination present including from a former dry cleaner identified in earlier investigations. Parking surveys will also be undertaken, and these align with Transport, Canberra and City Services requirements. ESPDD's assessments are expected to be completed by 30 June 2025.

The information obtained through EPSDD's work at Hawker will inform the Government in deciding if the land should be sold. The information will also assist in deciding if any sale should occur through a market or direct sales process. This includes consideration of any amended proposal from Woolworths for the Hawker group centre.

Thank you for raising this matter. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Chris Steel MLA
Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development
29 April 2025

Figure 1

