



March 2015

GRAG Newsletter

A quality local shopping centre for Giralang

Giralang Shops Update for fellow residents

We are all aware that construction of the new Giralang shopping centre has started – good and welcome news after the suburb has been deprived of shops for close on 10 years. The approved centre provides for an excellent array of shops: full service supermarket and bottle shop, café, restaurant, professional suite and loads of underground parking, perfect for afterschool pick up. It will be a benefit to the suburb, making Giralang an even more attractive place to live. We would finally have the services that other suburbs take for granted, and a place to have our morning coffee!

But its completion is not certain! Why? Because the only two opponents to the development – the small supermarkets at Evatt and Kaleen are still pursuing legal objections to thwart the development, and continue to deprive Giralang residents of a local supermarket. This costs us the taxpayers of the ACT in legal fees and valuable court time, money that could be better spent elsewhere within the community.

The stated objection to the current development, which was approved by the Planning Minister in 2012, is that a supermarket of 1500m² would adversely impact on their market share. They have stated that they don't object to one of 1000m² and, surprisingly, are not opposed to the large supermarket at Crace which is operated by Supabarn.

*'Crace Central will provide a local shopping centre that caters for the needs of the surrounding community. The supermarket will be 1500m² and will not include any additional areas which are ancillary or shared. There will also be a variety of specialty stores.'*¹

Limiting Giralang to smaller supermarket would make it likely that only a high-price small retailer would be able to operate. This means that locals would have to pay much higher prices than likely to be available if Woolworths took the lease as planned. On a price comparison we undertook in the first week of March, our basket of shopping cost \$13 (12 %) more than the same basket at Woolies .

¹ <http://www.crace.com.au/news/news-articles/supa-shopping-centre-coming-to-crace.php>

The Giralang Residents Action Group (GRAG) has been fighting for shops at Giralang since the old ones were closed in 2005.

We have recently met with Alistair Coe MLA, who lives in Giralang. He assured us that the Liberal Party strongly supports our local shopping centre, and undertook to champion a petition in the Assembly. The Chief Minister has also committed his government's support to our local shops. So why should commercial interests from outside our suburb continue to derail the development. Construction has ceased until court action by the opponents is pursued - how much longer are we expected to wait?

We have also arranged to meet with Mick Gentleman, Planning Minister. We will express our view that the Government has a responsibility to ensure local residents of Giralang have access to a local shopping centre just as residents of Evatt, Kaleen and other suburbs do.

How you can help:

Join the fight to get Giralang over the line. Join our petition to the Legislative Assembly. It's easy, it's electronic! Just follow this link from the Legislative assembly website and add your name.

1. Please email or message us via Facebook us if you can help with having the petition signed.
2. Sign the e-petition –there are links from Facebook and our website.
3. Sign the petition attached and ask your friends and family to sign too.

Giralang Primary School has kindly agreed to be a drop point, please place your signed petition in the box in the front office.

Contact us:

Email: giralang.residents.action.group@gmail.com

Website: <http://giralangresidents.weebly.com/>



Comparison Shopping List

Giralang Residents Action Group

PETITION

To the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

This petition of certain residents of the Australian Capital Territory draws to the attention of the Assembly that Giralang has been without local shops for a decade.

Your petitioners therefore request the Assembly to express their support of the completion as soon as possible, the full approved development of the shops currently under construction.

Further we call on the Assembly to enact legislation to limit further legal appeal by those opposing the development

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