

To all members of the Legislative Assembly

The Giralang Residents Action Group requests your urgent attention to the long-running saga of the shops re-development at Giralang. We would appreciate any support and assistance Members can provide. Please see our statement below.

Yours sincerely,

GRAG

GIRALANG RESIDENTS WANT THE GOVERNMENT TO DELIVER ON ITS PREVIOUS PROMISES ABOUT THE GIRALANG SHOPS

The Giralang Residents Action Group (GRAG) is opposed to any reduction in supermarket floor space from the existing, approved, 1500m² Development Application for the Giralang shops site.

There are reports that the long-awaited 1500m² supermarket in Giralang is to be scaled back. After eight years of planning confusion and legal procedural delays by self-interested commercial opponents of the development, GRAG would be bitterly disappointed by such an outcome.

Giralang residents have been patient over a long period while their shops have been planned, approved, opposed, and approved again. The issue has been considered repeatedly by the ACT Government, and 'called in' by the Minister to (unsuccessfully) expedite progress. One procedural aspect of the case has even gone as far as the High Court.

But Giralang residents have never lost sight of their original, very reasonable goal: "a quality local shopping centre for Giralang".

After rejecting plans for an 'townhouses-only' re-development on the old shopping centre site, residents warmly supported the developers' revised plans for a shopping centre with a 1500m² supermarket, cafes, offices and a small number of ancillary shops. Residents were delighted when those plans were officially approved through the proper ACT planning processes and pleased when the ACT Government eventually 'called in' the development application.

Residents now call on the Government to stick to its guns and reject any smaller, so-called compromise plan. Giralang could have had such a facility years ago. Rather, residents want what their elected representatives from all parties have consistently promised them: a quality local shopping centre for Giralang in the form approved by the official planning processes, publicly endorsed by the Government, and called-in by the responsible Minister.

Giralang residents have been innocent collateral damage in a long drawn-out legal squabble between commercial interests using and abusing legal processes to delay the shops' re-development. As a result the efficacy of the Government's Territory planning processes have

been called into question. The authority, consistency and commitment of the Government will also be in doubt if the original 1500m² approved application is not now re-affirmed.

A decision from the ACT Supreme Court is imminent. GRAG calls on the Government to reaffirm its support for the 1500m² development and reject any expedient compromises. Residents have waited long enough.

Chief Minister,

Giralang wants our approved shopping centre.

You promised us a 1500m² supermarket.

Please don't now sell us short with some 'compromise'!

How much longer must we wait?