



Suburban shops face uncertain future

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The demise of the Giralang shops may be the first in a long line of closures in Canberra's suburban retail centres.

The owners of the Giralang local centre have closed all but one of its stores, and want to change the site's lease to allow for the construction of apartments.

Colliers International has been employed to oversee the redevelopment of the site.

Chief executive Paul Powderly has told the ABC's *Stateline* program more local shopping centres are facing a similar future to Giralang.

"I think at the moment there is probably eight or 10 centres that are teetering on whether they are viable or not and whether they need significant change to reflect what the community needs going forward," he said.

Green's MLA Deb Foskey has welcomed the ACT Government's recognition that the planning laws may be letting down local communities such as Giralang.

But she says the Government needs to keep to its planning policies when it attempts to address the issue.

"I would think that a far-sighted government and especially one that talks about sustainable transport systems and increasing the density around shops to keep them more viable and to reduce our reliance on the car would be not making decisions just on what looks like it might be right for today," she said.

"But to actually plan for a suburb that achieves those things, ecological and social sustainability."

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