

Dear Minister Berry

I write to you as Minister responsible for the Suburban Land Agency on behalf of concerned residents of Wright and Coombs who are still without local shops many years after the first homes were built. Residents of Molonglo and Weston are united agreeing that the parking and facilities of Cooleman court are insufficient for the rapidly growing population.

Molonglo residents are concerned that the owner of the Coombs local centre has not as yet delivered on the supermarket or other shops that has been approved. Further, while the developer of Denman Prospect has promised to deliver a supermarket and local shops, these will not be local for Coombs and Wright residents – in fact for some residents they will be further away than Weston Group Centre. Residents believe that it is now time for the Government to do more to ensure that the residents of Wright and Coombs have local shops and do not have to wait for, and travel too, either Denman Prospect or the Molonglo Group centre.

One option would be that the Land Release Program includes two Mixed Use sites over the next two years (Wright sections 38 and 39) that would be highly suitable for shops. I am writing to you to recommend that the land release for at least one of these sites includes a requirement to provide shopfronts suitable for corner stores, cafes and so on. I believe this would need to be mandated in the sales conditions to avoid the sites being developed as purely residential buildings as the Territory Plan allows for shops but does not require them. Even when the shopping centres in Coombs and Denman Prospect are developed I think it is likely that there will be a market for additional non residential space.

There may be other options for the government to address this issue and I urge you and the Suburban Land Agency to solve it to improve the amenity and community life for residents of Weston and Molonglo.

Kind regards

Caroline

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