

## **“Public Accountability for What is Happening at Coombs Local Shopping Centre”**

*A Petition on Change.Org between 1 June and 17 June 2018 signed by 362 residents of Coombs and Wright, A.C.T.*

The Minister Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Planning and Land Management, has replied to our petition.

It is clear that the Minister shares the community’s frustration about the current situation in which Coombs has a brand new but totally empty shopping centre.

The Minister confirms that he cannot provide any explanation as to why the developer is having problems attracting a tenant for the supermarket despite the current lack of competition and a growing population.

The opening of the shopping centre is totally dependent upon the business and commercial interests and skills of the developer.

From the Minister’s letter, it is clear that the ACT government is powerless to intervene to represent the community’s interests in this process. Even if the developer completes the building but fails to operate it as a shopping centre then the ACT government has no power to intervene.

This is all very disheartening. We as a community continue to be concerned, frustrated and annoyed by the inconvenience and bizarre nature of the current situation.

We hope that in coming months the developer is successful in securing tenants for the supermarket and other shops.

If, however, the shopping centre is still not open by November 2018 then we sincerely request the developer to engage a public relations consultant to explain to us, the people of Coombs and Wright, just what is going on with this critically important asset.

On behalf of the 362 people who signed the petition, I very much thank the Minister for his letter dated 4 July 2018.

**Alison Hutchison**

On behalf of residents who signed the Change.Org Petition *“Public Accountability for What is Happening at Coombs Local Shopping Centre”*

5 July 2018