



The Retailers Association

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Anti-competitive Woolworths Proposal Will Destroy Local Businesses and Cost Jobs

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Peak national retail sector body, **The Retailers Association** has criticised a proposal that will see Woolworths steamroll local retailers out of business using their duopoly market control.

Scott Driscoll, National Executive Director of The Retailers Association has slammed the move to allow the as yet unopened Woolworths in Woodford to trade on Sundays as an attack on competition and has predicted that the only result will be the destruction of local business, paying higher food prices and widespread job losses.

The front organisation for Woolworths in this case is the NRA (National Retail Association) which has applied to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC), for the major retail chain to be allowed to open on Sundays, in direct competition to other local small businesses already providing excellent service, products and prices to the township of Woodford.

"True to form we see the big bully buys, who have not been interested in free markets or real competition for a long time, steamrolling into town and wiping out any semblance of competition and local small businesses," said Mr Driscoll.

"The idea that these sorts of proposals create 'more competition' is completely absurd. There might be a temporary period of 'Clayton's Competition' but following that you will see the wipe out of long standing local businesses and you will see job losses. This is their ultimate aim."

Mr Driscoll said the community should be extremely worried about the effects such a proposal will have on small local businesses and calls on local Moreton Bay Regional Council Mayor Alan Sutherland to represent the community and do the job he and his Council were elected to do, by joining with The Retailers Association to oppose this Application within the QIRC.

"Divestment strategies and management of brand saturation, especially in towns and regions like Woodford which already has excellent retail services based on it's population, are all real options," said Mr Driscoll.

The Retailers Association will act as Respondent and oppose the Application when it comes before the QIRC in about a month.

For further comment call Scott Driscoll on 0413 831 045.