



The Retailers Association

Serving Members Australia Wide™

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Toowoomba Falls to Southern Bully Boy Retail Chains

Driscoll: Sunday Trading for Major Chains Approved – Toowoomba Council Cited as “Neutral” by Commission

5 March 2010

Scott Driscoll, National Executive Director of The **Retailers Association**, a peak national industry body representing the independent retail sector, has condemned the Toowoomba Regional Council's “neutral” stance for now opening the flood gate to the major retail chain store to compete against and destroy local Toowoomba retailers on a Sunday. A determination has just been released by the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission this afternoon.

“Make no mistake, this will devastate the landscape and fabric of Toowoomba as we all know it economically and socially. Watch the retailers and businesses in the main streets of Toowoomba suffer and the **For Lease** signs start to go up over the next 6 to 12 months and beyond,” said Mr Driscoll.

“I’m sickened to say that the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission specifically cited the effective “no show” of Council during the hearings in it’s findings (Pg 18), a point I desperately attempted to highlight to the Council CEO would go against protecting the interests of the local community and local small business operators,” Mr Driscoll.

“During the Commission hearings, Council and the CEO flatly refused to participate formally in the process, even after repeated attempts by my organisation to explain that they had a right under the Act to represent the views of the community. They declined repeatedly, instead sending in a letter to the Commission that was not able to be taken into evidence due to it not being sworn evidence - another fact that was repeatedly made clear by us to Council,” said Mr Driscoll.

“Essentially, even though there was a rate payer funded survey, conducted and held by Council showing overwhelming community opposition to the Application to allow the major retail chains to open on Sunday, Council refused to enter it properly as evidence. They can’t say they weren’t warned,” said Mr Driscoll.

“I implore the local families of Toowoomba to now to the job Toowoomba Regional Council should have done but instead dingoed out and that is to support and back the local independent retailers and small businesses, because the major retail chains are now about to open a full scale attack,” said Mr Driscoll.

For further comment call Scott Driscoll on 0413 831 045.