

Competition Policy Review Secretariat  
The Treasury  
Langton Crescent  
PARKES ACT 2600  
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To whom it may concern,

So the big end of town want unlimited trading hours! Australia has more shopping space per square metre per person than anywhere else in the world. With policies of government and the agenda of the retail giants regional Australia will die and doing so. Just have a look at empty shops in small towns. How are you going to collect rates from business centre in small communities. The corporate tentacles reach our regional areas. Because they buy produce from America for \$6 a box they demand our farmers do the same. Level playing field is a load of rubbish!! America's wage rate is less than \$8 an hour. People searching for jobs over there who are illegal can quite easily find work and happy to be paid cash for less than \$5 an hour with no gestapo supervision from their government. In our country if an employer was to dare treat people in the same manner, the fine is so severe you would go broke or maybe go to jail [re:- story in WA] Woolworths do not buy Johnson & Johnson products in Australia, they come from Germany, what does that tell you. We now import oranges and juices from around the world to save 10c; wages overseas \$5 Aust \$20, no tariffs but a great level playing field!!! Within 5 to 10 years Coles and woollies want in excess of 70% of their own brands in store. What's that going to do to our manufacturing base and that percentage being manufactured in our country. Billy Shorten and his team want Australian workers to be the best paid in the world. I believe we are moving to deflation for quite some time, independents will be driven out not because we are bad business operators but because the system of the world is against us, as explained above.

LNP Government talk about decentralisation in Qld. Coles are developing 10 new stores Woolies are talking about 20 to 40? in the next 10 years, many will reach regional areas and what will that do to smaller communities? Once independents are wiped out most products will be sourced from overseas, manufacturing that is left will be gone, no choice on the shelves prices relative to quality will go up and they will then cut their hours back to suit their cost of efficiency.

Government has to understand that we are the least populated in the developed world and this open slaver mentality is just sending prices through the roof and their government charges are the most horrendous which is outside inflation measurement. Because of policies, increases in less than 7 years for rates 72%, land tax 260% electricity over 100% insurance 300% so give the big end of town open slather but please make sure you have enough kitty in the tin so that my wife and 2 children can live on the dole and move on to the pension because that's what Billy wants and if the government goes ahead with the demands it will be a very cold winter for decentralisation and independents.

Emerald IGA,

Anthony Comino.