

Reference number CR1814

Contact name

Dipak Amratlal

Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?

Yes

Organisation name

Om Mahalaxmii Pty Ltd

Is your submission confidential?

Advised not confidential.

Submission type

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Comment

Four years ago two brothers aged 30 & 26 decided to invest their savings into a small business and undertook an IGA branded Supermarket in West Ipswich, they worked hand in hand with local communities supporting them when things mattered, like the Brisbane floods. They had barely started their venture when tragedy struck and Ipswich was flooded, there was no electricity and the local community were caught by surprise with sudden flooding. The brothers contacted their local council and assisted with supplies of Groceries and perishable items at no cost, to be distributed to the families in much need.

The brothers have moved on and have eight stores in different demographics of Brisbane and employ just over 150 employees, continuously supporting their local communities, schools, & sporting clubs. So passionate that a statement by one of the brothers, Gaurav, said " We will never forget where we begun and how far we have come. Our supermarkets have become a symbol of pride and heritage for families and friends, a symbol that has nurtured through the acceptance of local communities and we will never compromise the welfare of these communities in light of our own success"

A compromise of trading hours for us independents is natural death, we are like skeletons in the sand now, with only 15% of Supermarkets independently owned, we have toiled hard and used our savings to get into a business, we are not in a position like the Retail giants who have abundance of capital to throw around, we work on very tight budgets to see the success of our investments. Any negotiation in trading hours, will mean close of stores resulting in loss of jobs for our local communities, loss of financial support to local schools and sporting clubs.

The deregulation of hours does not stop there, it will have a major impact also on Local suppliers, Local Professional services, employees in the industry and local economies. Independent Supermarkets make good use of other small businesses, including local plumbers, electricians, pest control providers etc., so any decline in the profitability will have a flow on impact on them as well.

From humble beginnings of opening a supermarket in West Ipswich the supermarkets have increased to eight in number and as owners we have profits that are reinvested locally not redirected elsewhere or overseas, like the major foreign owned multi-national companies. We urge the authorities not to de-regulate the business hours, as than we will be more than skeletons in the sand.