



# CALOUNDRA CITY COUNCIL

20 April 2004

Mr Rohan Jeffs  
General Manager Corporate Services  
Woolworths Limited  
PO Box Q70  
Q.V.B. Post Shop  
SYDNEY NSW 1230

Dear Mr Jeffs

I refer to your letter to me dated 19 April 2004. I note the contents. My response is also in the form of an open letter to yourself and the Maleny community.

I need to put into context your assertion regarding the approval of the development by Council. Yes, Council did approve the development on advice that it was unable to refuse it. Council's approval was conditioned to try and ensure the best outcome for the community. Unfortunately the developer took the matter to the Planning and Environment Court. The Court subsequently approved the development and in doing so removed a number of key conditions that Council had placed on the development. These included the requirement for an esplanade along the creek and traffic management via a no right turn lane into the site. It could not be fairly said at any stage that Council supported the proposed development on the site.

You further assert that all subsequent approvals of various government agencies have been received including those relating to issues of environmental impact. I understand there are enquiries currently being undertaken by at least one Government agency into the approvals. I also understand that an operational works approval has yet to be given by Council at this date.

Both Woolworths Ltd and Cornerstone have made and no doubt will continue to make commercial decisions about the subject development. It is clearly within your respective authorities to continue to make these commercial decisions in the light of the current circumstances and the community views being expressed.

I can only assume that you have made a commercial decision to again approach Council to reconsider its position in relation to the possible acquisition of the property at 2 to 4 Bunya Street. Whether Council is prepared to acquire the site and if so at what price is a matter for Council to decide. Before I take the content of your letter formally to Council for consideration I seek clarification from you on a number of matters.

Given that the proposed shopping centre has not yet been constructed to date, can you categorically confirm that neither Woolworths Limited nor any other party who may be proposed tenants will seek compensation of any kind or in any circumstance from Council in the event that Council purchases the land owned by Cornerstone for fair market value?

Your letter refers to Woolworths and Cornerstone jointly at a number of points. Can you please ensure Cornerstone confirms that you speak on their behalf in this matter.

I look forward to your immediate response so that I can take the matter to Council.

Yours faithfully

Don Aldous  
MAYOR