

From: Thomas Peter [mailto:pthomas@woolworths.com.au]

Dear <INSERT NAME HERE>,

Thank you for your comments addressed to Roger Corbett, CEO of Woolworths Limited in your recent email. As Roger is presently overseas, I respond on his behalf.

Whilst noting your quite clear views, I am happy to provide the further background below that does demonstrate that Woolworths have indeed tried to provide every opportunity for the community to see their desires for the future use of the site realised.

Woolworths has been aware of the sentiment of some parts of the Maleny community against the construction of the proposed development. For this reason, we took the unprecedented step of making the site available for purchase by the Caloundra City Council on at least three occasions, with Council, as the elected representatives of the Maleny community, being the appropriate party to act to realise the expressed desire to see the land utilised for community purposes.

These delays also allowed all avenues of consent to the proposed development to be fully tested, and now, with every aspect of the site being tested and approved at local, state and national levels, Woolworths now intend to honour the legally binding arrangements between our company and the developer of the site to take a lease of the premises once completed. We believe that the several moratoria created by our company, the delays to the normal development process, and our open willingness to allow the community the opportunity to purchase the site, have indeed acknowledged the wishes of the community. With no action to acquire the site, we have no choice now but to respect the agreements that we are a party to on the approved development, and proceed in the manner outlined above.

The reported presence of platypus on the Obi Obi Creek is well known to both Woolworths, the developer of the site, and most particularly, to the authorities who have categorically approved the development proposed. The consents for development incorporate strict conditions as to the manner in which the development is to be carried out, both in construction technique, and timing. An independent platypus expert has been retained by the developer to specify these particular methods, and inspect the progress of works in accordance with these conditions of consent. We note the recent comments of the Environment Minister Desley Boyle, who stated that "every environmental requirement for development has been satisfied, and a stringent monitoring program for the construction period is in place" (Courier Mail - 25/6/05)

You may also be interested to know that the site development conditions require the complete restoration of the current riverbank (removal of weed species and replacement with specified local species). These works will be undertaken by the developer of the site. Following completion of the site works, the developer has committed to return to council ownership via dedication approximately 25% of the site (being a band along the bank of the river) to allow the community to own, access and enjoy this area, which is presently virtually impossible due to the weed growth on the riverbank. Thank you for making your feelings known to Woolworths on this project. I trust this additional information helps in your understanding of the Maleny proposal.

Yours faithfully

Peter Thomas