



Attention Woolworth's Jindabyne.

Woolworth's Jindabyne – Easter Trading - issues for Local Small Business

The Jindabyne Chamber and its tourism sub committee Destination Jindabyne would like you to pass on our concerns to Management when they review and decide on Easter Trading in Jindabyne.

I am hoping that Woolworths will be able to open on Easter Sunday this Easter to cater for the many tourists we will have visiting the area for the very popular and growing trading through the Easter break in the Snowy Mountains.

As you will have noticed by your sales through the winter our area is still a growing market. Other times of the year are becoming increasingly popular and busy as a tourist destination, especially with the number of sporting and cultural events the area is now supporting.

This Easter we have three major cultural events. Two of these are now in their 16th year and attract visitors from far and wide across regional NSW and especially Canberra. The first and foremost event is the Lake Light Sculpture held on Lake Jindabyne over the four days. This is a major high level event supported now & displaying sculptures both large and small from entrants from all over NSW including, Queensland and Victoria.

The second is the Easter Art Show held at the Jindabyne Memorial Hall for the full Easter break. This event is visited by hundreds of locals and tourists visiting and is a major draw card and fundraiser for the Jindabyne Lions Club. It represents a unique opportunity for artists from Cooma, Canberra and the South Coast to show their works presented in numerous mediums and formats.

A third very popular cultural event being held is the Quilting Exhibition at the Jindabyne Memorial Hall annex for the Easter period.

The Woolworth's supermarket is critical to the Community and frames much of the retail shopping experience in a expanding tourism area.

As Woolworths is our only town supermarket supplying visiting families with affordable food and basic necessitates it reflect badly on our town and shopping centre if we cannot meet their needs. Last year when the store was closed on Easter Sunday there was a lot of negative feedback to the other local businesses who struggled to cater with the large influx of visitors. Woolworths is the only supplier of Easter Eggs at Nuggets Crossing Shopping Centre and last year this source was sorely missed by locals and visitors for this alone.

Many of our small food and coffee outlets located within the Nuggets Crossing Shopping Centre, the "Town Centre" Shop's plus accommodation lodges and motels in town and right up to Perisher and Thredbo Resorts, as well as well as Lodges rely on Woolworth's as a primary shop plus for "back up" for supplies as "out of town" distributors do not run over the Easter Break. These small outlets plus the various fundraising events over this time rely on Woolworth's to supply everything from Milk, bread, meat for BBQ's, Roast chickens, salads, drinking water, party supplies including alcohol etc. to make the town's services meet the needs of the local community plus tourists and visitors.

The Chamber will definitely continue to highlight the need for Jindabyne to be identified as a "tourism precinct" with our Federal, State and local politicians which is costing small and larger local business much needed income. Also does not encourage a positive experience and may reflect in return summer tourism for "Keystone Events" such as Lake Light Sculpture and L'Etape and the general tourism flow and experience we are all building on, to grow year round business and confidence in the local economy.

The Nuggets Crossing Centre and Destination Jindabyne and all other shopping precincts need to ensure we become a more attractive destination, boosting visitation to the region, further development of the amenity and other industries and increased employment opportunities.

The Jindabyne Chamber of Commerce considers the shopping experience and essential staples provided by our one and only supermarket to be an essential element in its management plan for the business district and community.

Tourism in the region is our life blood and we need to ensure it remains very competitive with other destinations with potential tourism benefits, improving overall retail experiences and our tourism resource for the Snowy Mountains community.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

Jindabyne Chamber of Commerce President; Chair of Destination Jindabyne