



**John
Barilaro MP**
Member for Monaro

9 March 2018

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the Jindabyne Woolworths Supermarket in my electorate of Monaro, in particular concerning their request to open on Easter Sunday.

Due to being the closest township to the world-famous ski resorts and mountain trails of the Kosciuszko National Park, Jindabyne ranks among the top tourist destinations in New South Wales. Despite the perception of the town as a winter destination, it is very popular with local, New South Wales, interstate, and international visitors all year round. Over the Easter long weekend, the town receives around twenty thousand visitors, many of whom stay for one or more nights. All of these people require basic services, including convenient access to groceries via the Supermarket.

The Jindabyne Woolworths is the only supermarket or grocery store not only in Jindabyne, but within a forty-five minute drive of the township. The application of new rules to the Supermarket as a result of the merger of the local council with its neighbours meant that for the first time in a number of years, the Supermarket was unable to open on Easter Sunday last year. This had a significant detrimental impact on everyone in the area. Local cafes and businesses were forced to close early due to running out of groceries, and local volunteer groups were prevented from taking advantage of the visitor numbers by the lack of basic supplies for barbecues and other fundraising events. This is in addition to the huge general inconvenience the closure caused to everyone in the town, locals and visitors alike. The only other source of groceries, the service station, ran out of essentials by ten in the morning. Given increasing visitor number projections each year, the impacts will be even greater this year if the Supermarket is forced to close on Easter Sunday.

While I acknowledge the importance of respecting public holidays with cultural and religious significance in a modern Australia, governments need to work with local businesses and communities to encourage tourism in New South Wales. Tourism provides benefits, either direct or indirect, to everyone in the community. As such, given the tremendous potential detriment of the closure to the town of Jindabyne, and the Snowy Mountains region at large, I strongly support the provision of an exemption for Jindabyne Woolworths to allow them to trade on Easter Sunday.

I can be contacted on [REDACTED] to discuss this matter further if required.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
John Barilaro
NSW Deputy Premier, Member for Monaro

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