

NSW Premier Morris Iemma
Level 40 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
Sydney NSW 2000
thepremier@www.nsw.gov.au
2008

_____ June

Dear Premier,

I live in and/or shop at the small town of Mullumbimby in northeastern NSW. Carved on a sign on the road into town is a motto that I hold dear. It says "**the Biggest Little Town in Australia**". If you haven't been here, I hope you will visit when you are next up this way.

Over the past 6 or 8 years we've had to put up with the **threat of a new supermarket** being built on railway land in a residential area of town. That threat took a bad turn in 2006 when your Minister, Frank Sartor, overrode the Byron Shire Council and approved a development application by the potential purchaser of the surplus railway land for a supermarket on the site. The approval enabled the sale of the land by the Minister for Railways to go ahead.

However, the threat took a turn for the worse when **Woolworths** stepped in and purchased the local business who had achieved development approval. I believe a growing majority of the people of Mullumbimby do not want Woolworths here.

I take offence that when Minister **Sartor** approved the supermarket in 2006, **he knew that the local Council had just rejected the same application and that it contravenes the local planning strategy** of the town. When he approved the supermarket, he would also have been aware that the Minister for Railways was unable to sell the land to the supermarket-owner without his approval. It's not really very fair, is it?

The 2006 approval was staged. Stage 1 allowed half the supermarket to be built before sewage is available (while the other half of the land was for on-site sewage). Stage 2 allowed the second half to be built when sewage becomes available some years hence. **The town's sewage treatment plant is overloaded and no new connections have been allowed for about a decade.** I'm sure you'll be disgusted to learn that the town's sewers overflow in wet weather (several times per year) discharging raw sewage including toilet-flushings into the Brunswick River.

Woolworths have a "Section 96 Modification" currently before the Department of Planning asking Minister Sartor's permission to build the full Stage 2 building without connection to the sewer—with an inadequate amount of land (180 square metres) set aside for on-site sewage. A number of other serious flaws have been identified in the modification. They also want to increase the hours of trading and bring trucks into town on Sundays.

We have asked the Director of Planning to recommend that Minister Sartor reject the Section 96 Application. Thousands of submissions have been lodged to this effect.

We have no confidence in Minister Sartor, however, and are requesting your help:

Would you please **instruct your Minister to listen to local input rather than kowtow to business interests?**

Would you please instruct your Minister to **refuse the Section 96 Application?**

Would you please do more and assist us in **retaining the character of the town we love** and not turn it into "the Littlest Big Town in Australia".

Yours faithfully,

Signed: _____

(Pls record your name & address to make this letter valid.)