

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CHAIR OF WOOLWORTHS

Dear Gordon Cairns,

We write as community members and leaders to call on you to stop Woolworths from building one of the biggest bottle shops in the country in Darwin.

This is our home. The people whose lives your bottle shop threatens are our loved ones — our families, friends and neighbours.

We have been working together to create a stronger, healthier and more resilient community.

Would you really undermine all that for the sake of extra profit?

We are sure you know the impact that alcohol products are having in communities across Australia — the violence, disease and misery that spreads like a cancer.

We ask that you spare our community that fate. We ask that you put people above profits. We ask that you take the time to actually listen to what we're telling you.

At no point has Woolworths engaged meaningfully with our community about building this Dan Murphy's store. If you had, you would know the depth of our concern and opposition.

You claim to have responded to public concern by moving the store. In reality, you've bumped it a kilometre down the road. This is pure public relations spin designed to protect your public image, not our community.

Australians were outraged by the willful and deliberate destruction of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural sites elsewhere in the country by big corporations. Your pursuit of this store equates to the same willful and deliberate destruction of the health of our community and it will be judged accordingly.

You are the only person left with the power to stop this store from going ahead. This decision and the impact it will have now rests on your shoulders.

Please listen to your heart and protect our families, friends and neighbours from this destructive store.

Abandon your plans to build a Dan Murphy's in Darwin.

Yours,

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Barbara Shaw

Chairperson, Aboriginal Medical Service Alliance Northern Territory & General Manager, Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation

John Paterson

CEO, Aboriginal Medical Service Alliance Northern Territory

Gibson Farmer

Chairperson, Tiwi Land Council

Marion Scrymgour

CEO, Northern Land Council

Joe Martin-Jard

CEO, Central Land Council

Carol Stanislaus

Chairperson, Danila Dilba Health Service

Olga Havnen

CEO, Danila Dilba Health Service

Leeanne Caton

CEO, Yilli Rreung Housing Corporation

Colleen Rosas

Chairperson, Northern Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency

Priscilla Atkins

CEO, Northern Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency

Kim Hill

Chairperson, Yilli Rreung Trust

Theresa Roe

Chairperson, Yilli Rreung Aboriginal Corporation

Regina Bennett

CEO, Darwin Aboriginal & Islander Women's Shelter

Jill Smith

CEO, Council for Aboriginal Alcohol Programs Aboriginal Corporation

Don Baylis

General Manager, Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association

Phynea Clarke

CEO, Central Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Unit

Graham Dowling

Chairperson, Central Australian Aboriginal Congress

Donna Ah Chee

CEO, Central Australian Aboriginal Congress

Thomas Mayor

National Indigenous Officer & NT Deputy Branch Secretary, Maritime Union of Australia

Maria Harvey

CEO, Tiwi Island Training Education Board

John Wilson

Chairperson, Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association

Robyn Ragattieri

Business Manager, Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association

Shaun Tatipata

Director, Deadly Enterprises

Cassandra Carolin

A/CEO, North Australia Aboriginal Family Legal Service

Helen Fejo-Frith

President, Bagot Community Advisory Group

Deborah Di Natale

CEO, Northern Territory Council of Social Services

Noelene Swanson

Northern Territory Director, Save the Children

Jayne Lloyd

Director, CatholicCare NT

David Pugh

CEO, Anglicare NT

Ben Abbatangelo

Writer

Dr Robert Parker

President, AMA NT

John Boffa

Spokesperson, People's Alcohol Action Coalition

ALLIES

Donna Murray

CEO, Indigenous Allied Health Australia

Karl Briscoe

CEO, National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners

Cindy Berwick

President, NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group

Catherine Liddle

CEO, First Nations Media

Katrina Fanning

Chairperson, ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body

Roianne West

CEO, Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives

Donnella Mills

Chair, National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

Jill Gallagher

CEO, Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

Fiona Petersen

CEO, Healing Foundation

Vicki O'Donnell

Chair, Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia

Priscilla Atkins

Co-chair, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services

Pat Anderson

Chairperson, Lowitja Institute

Caterina Giorgi

CEO, Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education