

Mr Gary Boyer
Manager, Region 9
Woolworths Limited
PO Box 202
Archerfield Qld 4108

December, 2010

Dear Gary Boyer

RE: WOOLWORTHS BLOCKADE – MULLUMBIMBY

Are you aware of what is happening in Mullumbimby? For your information, the streets have been blockaded from 7th June this year (more than six months) causing traffic congestion which is often approaching gridlock, community exasperation and acute loss of business.

The reason for the blockade was ostensibly for roadworks to be carried out in Station Street, and these were not even started till 15 November, more than 5 months late! Meanwhile Station Street was used by your contractors Waltons as a storage space for concrete pipes, heavy machinery and piles of fill – as if Station Street was a building site for Woolworths! We understand the blockade will be in place until next February; nine months instead of three months!!

Mr Boyer, you came to Mullumbimby on 14 May 2008 with an address to the community in the Council Chambers promising the advent of Woolworths to be a positive experience. Green booklets entitled “Woolworths in Mullumbimby” were handed out (and hand delivered to residents) with a message from you and your photo in it, saying that you are “keen to partner with local community”. The “positive effect on local businesses” (p5 of your booklet) has been the reverse as the blockade has acted like an embargo. The level of annoyance experienced by drivers has also had a negative impact, parking problems have escalated and our town bypass has been blocked off.

On Thursday 2nd December a Motion was carried at Byron Shire Council to negotiate with Woolworths to get the blockade lifted during the holiday period when it is quite likely that Waltons contractors will be on holiday anyway. This letter is to let you know that community members support Byron Shire Council’s Motion and ask you to please lift the blockade and embargo on our town over the Christmas period. We suggest from 17 December to 17 January.

PLEASE LIFT THE MULLUMBIMBY BLOCKADE FOR CHRISTMAS!!

Yours truly