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**Sent:** 5/03/2021 4:35:29 PM  
**Subject:** Re : MOD 2021/0047

To whom it may concern,

I have been trading in markets in various locations around Sydney for 25 years. What began as a short term plan has become a lifelong passion, and the support and camaraderie of literally generations of Sydneysiders is central to that.

Every weekend, regardless of the weather, thousands and thousands of people throughout Sydney get together with complete strangers and old friends, and vote with their feet by shopping at their local markets. Some are there for the freshest most delicious foods and drinks, some want to chat with the growers and producers of their food, those with children always tell us that their local market has helped them show their offspring how important fresh food is, and what a joy to actually meet the people that bring that food to their table!

Mona Vale markets is a jewel in the crown of the Northern Beaches. The focus on good health and nutrition, the importance of community, the pure unadulterated happiness of the place are well known to anyone who has ever attended this market.

During the pandemic's peak last year, there were a number of local market features that became very important. One was that local communities knew they had a safe, reliable local place to shop for their families food needs, and the other was the dawning realisation that Australia was perfectly placed to be self-sufficient when it came to fresh food. With the support of our governments at all levels, from Federal to Municipal, we could have a future where we no longer bought sub-standard produce from other countries with dubious horticultural practices. We could actually grow everything we needed right here, and our markets are central to getting that message out and getting that fresh food into our communities straight from our own farms.

Markets like Mona Vale are a vital part of the loudly beating heart of our communities, we should be making it easier to have more of them, not trying to place unreasonable restrictions on the few we do have. I will keep bringing my apples from the Snowy Mountains to Sydney markets for as long as I can, it is part of who I am, and it would be lovely to know that everyone gets the chance to experience what I do every week. I have customers who first tasted my apples as children in their parents arms, and they now bring their own children just to see that joy on their faces.

This is about people, not paperwork, there is nothing simpler than prioritising humanity for the good of the everyone.

Thankyou for continuing to support these vital community places.

Erica Power.