
Sent: 11/03/2021 12:50:33 PM
Subject: Mod2021/0047

I am writing to support the approval of the DA for the market at Pittwater RSL in Mona Vale, Mod2021/0047

These markets provide an opportunity for small business operators, usually housebound carers or retirees to earn income they would otherwise not be able to do so. Unexpectedly people have found themselves unemployed during this pandemic and these people also have an opportunity to earn some income. I would much rather see potentially idle hands involved in a market stall than walking our streets.

In producing, supplying and/or running a weekly market stall the activity gives a focus to these people's life and, particularly during the current pandemic, improves mental health. Often this is the only time in a week that I interact with strangers (socially distanced, of course).

For the market customers, a weekly food market in the outdoors is a lot healthier than mall shopping where social distancing can be lax. The short supply lines of market stall holders (compared to large retail outlets) also ensures fresher and therefore healthier food. "Getting out" creates a reason for outdoor activity and the family usually combines the market visit with a stop at the playgrounds for their children. Markets encourage healthy lifestyles, healthy eating, and mental stimulation.

I also believe that weekly markets keep competition alive: large retailers too often try and dictate what customers can buy. Markets can offer variety and respond rapidly to food supply issues - that is, lower prices when there is a glut whereas retailers are often locked into contracts.

Also, do not forget the role of innovation. During this pandemic it has been markets that have supplied home made face masks when the main retailers had yet to respond to the new demand. They now supply alternative designs to the main retailers. More could have been made by government of the use of markets for emergency (quick response) food or other items distribution.

Please approve this DA.

Kay Pittelkow