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RE: DA2019/0123 - 80 - 82 Mona Vale Road MONA VALE NSW 2103

I am writing regarding the Organic Food Market at Frenchs Forest where I have been a stallholder for many years. The markets have been instrumental in the survival and growth of my family's business, other producers from the Riverina, attracting tourism to the Northern Beaches and providing for the local community as outlined below.

Prickle Hill produce is a 4th generation family farm run by myself and my father that has been running and supporting my family for close to a century. Five years ago the bank threatened to repossess the farm due to the amount of debt we had from the drought and other weather related issues. We decided to bring our produce to sell to the Sydney community to help support our farm and the Organic Food Market was the first market we contacted.

Through allowing us to have a stall at Frenchs Forest have helped us grow our business and given me the confidence to supply to the public. The team encourage us to turn up every week teaching us that the customers will always turn up for us if we turn up for them. They gave us the tools and skills to sell our product which has now turned our business around and allowed the farm to prosper again.

Through our stall at the Organic Food Markets, we have also created an avenue to support surrounding farms from the Riverina. By selling their products at the markets, we are able to bring exposure to those farms and another form of revenue to support their businesses in these tough times.

We have full time staff that our stall supports and also employ local young adults from the area to help educate them about organic fruit and vegetables, the importance of produce markets and supporting farmers. The revenue from the market also allows us to donate produce to other parts of the community. We often supply produce to local schools for sports carnivals, charities or walk-a-thons which would not be possible without the additional income Frenchs Forest brings.

The Organic Food Market is like a carnival, it's a happy environment with action. Food and produce is thrown back and forth with theatre-like banter between customer and marketeer. This is something that people come from all over Sydney to the Northern Beaches to witness and enjoy on a Sunday. It is one of the only avenues where customers can take the time to see, smell, taste and enjoy fresh organic produce; either on the spot or when cooking it at home. We have produce that cannot be bought at any other place in Sydney except for the Organic Food Market.

If the Organic Food Market were to terminate it would have a grave impact on our family farm, surrounding farms from the Riverina, the local Northern Beaches community and tourism in the area.