
Sent: 9/12/2019 8:15:34 AM
Subject: Mod2019/0547

To whom it may concern,

I wish to voice my wishes for Mona Vale market to be open at 7.30am for trading.

As a former market stall holder myself I have approx 10 years experience in how stall holders and the public operate and based on this knowledge I knew that stall holders, particularly produce sellers, were going to really struggle with such a restrictive time window. Sadly my thoughts have proven correct.

I have spoken to many of them since the market moved to Mona Vale as they have become friends over the years and they have shared how they are suffering both financially and emotionally from the significantly shorter trading hours. One beautiful man began crying when I asked him how he was doing and he said that day he lost money because of all the wastage of his bread and pastries.

There were waves of foot traffic at Frenchs Forest market, we got the early risers who arrived around 6.30/7am when we were still setting up and were gone by 8am - this is a significant number of people who have found another place to get their weekly fresh produce because they can't wait to shop at 8.30am due to things like kids sport, nippers, church, family commitments, the heat, whatever the reason, I would bet they will return if the market opens earlier.

Can you imagine getting up at 3am after having laboured all week on your farm in drought conditions, somehow you have made it through another week, you get to Sunday morning, do the long drive with eyes bulging, hoping the public will come out to shop. You get to 12.25pm, still lots of your produce on the tables, moral is low because you are wondering how you will pay your bills this week as it has been a slow day and then someone comes along and starts filling their basket and all of a sudden, a ranger appears and stops you from selling your hard earned produce to a willing loyal customer who was running late that day, because it is 12.32pm.

This situation is INSANE! It does not make sense nor does it work on any level. We are talking ridiculous amounts of food wastage which is totally unacceptable!!!

As usual there is one or a small number of people whose lives are significantly effected by something like a market opening up next door so they complain and council puts a stop or restricts it in some way. The people who have complained sadly are only seeing the disruption to their lives when they could be seeing the opportunities such as fresh organic produce right across the road - no need to have to go the supermarket, not to mention the friendships one could foster if open to such a thing.

But what about the THOUSANDS of lives effected by the changes to what used to be Frenchs Forest market - don't we matter just as much? Surely its about time common sense prevails for the good of the majority rather than the minority.

THE MARKET IS COMMUNITY - people earn a living there, they meet up with friends to share a meal, they buy fresh organic produce for their families, it has been a weekly tradition for so many people over the past 25 years and it was devastating enough to have to move from Frenchs Forest with many loyal customers not prepared to travel the extra distance to Mona Vale, let alone be so restricted in trading to the point where rangers walk around like military stopping someone from buying a loaf of bread.....surely you can see the madness in this situation!!

Councils always carry on about being for the community and how important it is to build community. Well here is your chance to support this section of the community - let's see if someone there has the balls to do it!

Regards
Sherree Maniks