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Subject: Online Submission

06/11/2019

MISS Michelle Watson
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RE: DA2019/1119 - 4 / 0 Bennett Street CURL CURL NSW 2096

Dear Assessing Officer,

For the past 3 months I have been working at the Organic Scarecrow market in Freshwater. Why do I travel so far from my home to work there every Sunday? Well I actually grew up in the Northern Beaches. I went to Forest High and I frequent freshwater village every weekend to go to the beach, to shop at the shops, to BBQ at the cabanas. I only moved to the East because of work. But the northern beaches is still in my heart and is still my home. So every Sunday, I volunteer my time to support the Organic Scarecrow guys at their market. A market that is breathing life back in the village. What keeps me coming back every week is the smile on the faces of the locals, the community spirit that can be felt from the shops and cafes through to the sunny piece of lawn. The locals in this area are behind this project because it's about community, Sustainability. It's about locals supporting locals. It's what the northern beaches has always been about.

I understand that a competing market wants to set themselves up at the diggers. That would be a mistake for the community not just because of the damage it would do to this local business who has been servicing the local community for the last 8 years. But for the struggling shops owners who for the first time in a long time, have revenue and customers across the weekend in the village. Gone are the days when every shop front was full, when the streets were busy. The closure of the farmers on the corner and more recently IGA has literally drove people away from this once bustling little village. This proposed market would do the opposite of what the council set out to achieve, which was to bring revenue back to the locals. The organic scarecrow market doesn't sell food or coffee or anything that competes with the local shops because it isn't about profits and dollar signs.. it's about servicing the community. And that's where this new market falls short. They want food tents and BBQs and coffee. They want to monopolise the weekend trade and that's just not right. That's not what community does. Communities have each other's back. They are there to support and lift up their brothers, sisters, neighbours and friends. Please don't kill the community spirit that has just started to recover and rebuild in Freshwater, by allowing this other market to take it all away for themselves.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michelle