Open Letter from North Island Grocers

Dear Prime Minister and Minister Willis,

National is proposing to break up our Foodstuffs co-op, while telling us it won't impact our businesses, and promising customers that it will make groceries cheaper. That doesn't add up.

We're 320+ local families who own and run our own supermarkets. We live in the same towns and neighbourhoods as our customers. One family, one store. Together, we own the Foodstuffs co-op – the engine room that gets groceries on our shelves and helps us compete hard with each other and many other competitors for every customer dollar.

The co-op isn't some separate corporate head office. It's our heart, our lifeblood, our backbone.

Local grocers formed this co-op in 1922, so they could buy together to keep prices down. Our co-op still does that, giving us the scale we need, the buying power with big international suppliers, the ability to support and grow new suppliers, the warehouses, the trucks, the IT systems, marketing and the people that help us get groceries onto shelves and deliver value.

You can't say you're backing local grocers while taking out the engine that drives our stores. The co-op is how we serve our customers and communities. Along the way, it's helped thousands of young people get their first job, build careers and trained all of us to run our own stores.

Customers should rightly ask how duplicating all our warehousing and support costs will lower prices. It simply won't.

The analysis behind your own proposal says regional prices could rise. That's hard to square with claims this will benefit customers. More than 119 of us serve towns and communities with fewer than 5,000 people. The Foodstuffs co-op model helps ensure smaller communities, like Ōtaki, Tūrangi, Wairoa, Kaikohe and Taumarunui, aren't left paying more because they're further from a distribution centre.

We hear you talk about Foodstuffs like it's a simple corporate structure. That's wrong. We are the co-op – small and medium business owners who take on debt and risks to build good local businesses. The value of our biggest asset, our store, is completely tied to the value of the co-op.

We all want groceries to be more affordable. The way to do that is to have strong local operators, competing hard against the international corporates.

This proposal puts our proudly locally-owned business model at risk. No matter how you spin it, this is about as far from a 'business friendly' policy as the National Party could get.

You say the stakes are very high and we agree. We are gutted because, as grocers, we know your policy won't work – all the risk in this forced break-up sits with us, our customers and communities. We're now lying awake at night wondering if we can afford to invest in our stores and our co-op's infrastructure while this uncertainty hangs over us.

If you are serious about keeping prices down at the checkout, you should be backing Kiwi-owned businesses and the Foodstuffs co-op we built together, not pulling it apart.

PAK'nSAVE owner operators
New World owner operators
Four Square owner operators
Gilmours owner operators
North Island/Te Ika-a-Māui

NEW WORLD BOTANY

PAK N SAVE PAPAMOA

Robert John Adam
TAIRUA FOUR SQUARE

Raj Singh
NW Otaki

Rakesh Patel
Store Owner
Jayana Investment Limited
T/A Rodney Four Square

Ross McAulay
New World Pakuranga

Four Square Coromandel

Adam Phimester

Blue Lagoon Four Square, Morewa Kawakawa
Owner operator
Balvant Patel
Sonal Patel
Sonal B Patel

Eastridge New World

New World Clendon Park

Aaron Scanes
Owner Operator
Pak'n Save Glen Innes

Four Square Glen Eden

Michael Li
New World Ngaruawahia

Four Square Kaikohe

Four Square Hunty

Four Square Heaphy Terrace

Sam Scott
New World Tokoroa

Sam Waddell
Four Square Ngongotaha

Aimee Henderson
Four Square Parakai

Calum Sutherland
Foursquare Edmund Road

Akshay Singh
4Sq Fergusson

Aiyad Khan
New World Kumeu

Pritesh Bhikha
Four Square Te Puna

Four Square Pahurangu Heights

Four Square Eden Terrace

Royal Oak PAK'nSave

New World Paremata

Otaika Four Square

New World Taumarunui

Alec Ghirelli
New World Stokes Valley

ALEX GAGE-BROWN
FOUR SQUARE ONEHUNGA

New World Miramar

Adam Barkla
Four Square Hokowhitu

New World Mt Albert

Stuart Macdonald
Four Square Patea

Tim Wilson
New World Stonefields

Selwyn Heights Foursquare
Amish Patel

Wairau Road PAK'nSAVE

Alex Russell
Four Square Rotorua

Four Square Ruatoria

Pamana Marsh
Gilmours Central

Whanganui New World

Botany Junction 4 Square

Andrew Sevier
Whakatane Pak'n Save

Four Square Manaia

New World Mt Roskill

BAY VIEW FOUR SQUARE

4SQ KAIWAKA

PAK'n SAVE Tamatea

Aryn McKissock
4 Square Shannon

New World Matamata

New World Island Bay Wellington

Mike Turney
Four Square Tokomaru Bay

PAK'N SAVE ROTORUA

Gilmours Wellington

New World Feilding
Todd & Nicola Carter & kids

Four Square Houhora

Taipa 4 Square

PAK'nSAVE Warkworth

Anouska Howard
Four Square Blenheim

Alok Patel
Gulf Harbour 4 Square

Rama Unka
New World Albany

Tejas Salway
Four Square Karori

Stephanie von Beck
Four Square Balmoral Drive

Orewa New World

Andrew Summerville
PAK'nSAVE Sylvia Park

Andy Hayward
Four Square Red Beach

Peter Lynch
Pak'nSave Papakura

Four Square Onerahi

Manukau Pak n Save

4SQ Kaponga

Ravikumar Patel
Raetihi Foursquare

Store Name- Four Square Wainui Rd
Store Owner- Ravi Kumar

Owner/Operator
Waihi Beach 4 Square

New World Inglewood

Tony Shepherd
Four Square Whangamata East

Four Square Clive

Four Square St Heliers

Gisborne Pak n Save

Ngatea Foursquare

Brook Melody
4 square
New Opunake

Palmerston North PaknSave

Chris Lamont
Local Grocer/Owner Operator
PAK'nSAVE Kapiti

4Square Kerikeri

SURESH CHIMANLAL
NEW WORLD ROTOTUNA

Stacey Rolton
New World Te Puke

New World Browns Bay

Brendon Shoebridge
New World Marton

Vijay Kumar Patel
Te Ngae Four Square
Fordlands Four Square

NEW WORLD
Kapiti

New World Te Awamutu

Allan Rudkin
Mt Maunganui New World

Waitara 4 Square
68 McLean Street
Waitara
4320

Craig Williams
New World Waitara

Owner / operator
Waikanae Beach Four Square

Tony Ford
Owner/Operator
New World Broadway

Paul Fabian
NW CARTERTON

GILMOURS NORTH SHORE

Pak'n Save Petone

Owner Operator
New World Whakatane
Bruce Jenkins

New World Victoria Park

New World Howick

Cameron Smith
New World Milford

Chirag Patel
New World Karori

Dawn Cooper & Kevin Cooper
Four Square Mangawhai Heads

Thomas Bell
New World Pioneer

Napier City Pak'n Save
Sonya Hesselman - Robie Watson

C Longstaff
Four Square Eastbourne

Tew Spur Pongia

Kamo Four Square

Clare Gallagher
New World Kaiapoi

Woodville 4 Square

New World Turangi

Dharmendrakumar Patel
Morewa Blue Lagoon Four Square

Four Square Normanby

Claire Castelina
Pauanui Bay 4 Square

New World Gate Pa

Ashok Kumar
Four Square Milson

DAMIAN LANGLEY
NEW WORLD WARKWORTH

Thames PAK'n SAVE

NEW WORLD
Wellington City

Owner/Operator
Four Square Waverley

PAKNSAVE Hawera

Matthew Rollinson
Levin New World

New World Opotiki

Doug Cochrane
Pak'n Save Kaitaia

Colin Close
Four Square Cherrywood

David Wynne
New World Hillcrest
Owner/Operator

NEW WORLD HASTINGS

Dan Shaw
New World Porirua

PNS Ormiston

NEW WORLD

Grant Hill – Four Square Hillcrest

Pak N Save Upper Hutt

4SQ Motorangi

4square Paraparaumu Beach

David Lowe
Four Square Bombay

Kilbirnie Pak n Save

New World Ohakune

Gilmours Manukau

Viv Smith
Owner Operator
PAK'n SAVE Taupo

New World New Lynn

Lindy Cooper
Owner/Operator
New World Dannevirke

Daniel Williams
New World Hutt City
CO-OWNER
NEW WORLD

AWAPUNI FOUR SQUARE

Clarence Street Food Warehouse Ltd

New World Stratford

Dinesh Patel
Four Square Cambridge

Four Square Torbay

SNELLS BEACH

Darren Tucker
New World Kerikeri

New World Newtown

Waipawa Four Square

Maungatapu Four Square

Harpreet Singh

Shital Croswami
Four Square Otatei

Vikram Kanyan
Owner/Operator
Four Square Okato

New World Rolleston

Four Square Slope Point

Hamish Townshend
New World Tawa

Darshan Singh
Four Square Welcome Bay

Takapau 4 Square

Four Square Ureani
Sean McDermid

Four Square Stratford

Simone Forde
New World Hobsonville

Point Chevalier

Matthew Mullins
Owner Operator
New World Point Chevalier

Lincoln Rd Pak'n Save
Auckland

Glenn Wells
Four Square Russell

Pak'n Save Porirua

Patumahoe Four Square

James Crawshaw
Owner Operator
New World Aokautere

Gwen Bailey
Pak'nSave Mini
Levin

Georgina Maguire
Owner/Operator, Four Square Tamahere

New World Te Atatū

Maraenui Four Square

Iain Beaton
New World Greenmeadows

Irshad Nabi
Matangi Four Square

NEW WORLD
Foxton

PAKNSAVE Mount Albert

George Coulter
Four Square Foxton Beach

Gurpreet Brar
Four Square Mangakino

Western Heights Four Square

PNS Mill Street

Paresh Kalkat
Eastend Four Square

Owner Operator
Morrinsville New World

Pradeep Baravinkumar Patel
Four Square, Palmerston North

Vimal Thera
Four Square Ruawai

Kelburn Four Square

MOTUROA FOUR SQUARE

Hitendra Patel

James Cardno
New World Whangaparāoa

Four Square Waipapa

NEW WORLD
Ormiston

NEW WORLD WAROA

Crystal Plummer

Jake Coleman
Four Square Te Mata

Hamish Moore
Four Square Paihia

Heidi Brittenden
New World Birkenhead

Kaeo Four Square

Jayantkumar Chandani Patel
4 Square Bunnythorpe

PAK'nSAVE Whangarei

New World Onewhero

Jason Morrissey
Gilmours Tauranga

Four Square Papamoa

Marcus Te Brake
New World Long Bay

Kerry Stanley

Henry Beath
New World Taihape

Jack Keating
Marsden Cove Four Square

4 SQ Lancaster
Jayantibhai Patel

Te Puke 4 Square

New World Waiuku

Ian Rivett
New World Khandallah

Richmond Lee
New World Waikanae

Maraenui Four Square

Jack Beaton
Owner/Operator
Clendon PAK'nSAVE – 100% NZ Owned

Vinod M Bhaga

Four Square Mahora

New World Devonport

Nick & Kaylee Bradshaw
New World Masterton

PAK'nSAVE
MANGERE

Four Square Waipu

Lance Palfridge
Owner Operator
Four Square Ōpōtiki | 112 Church Street, Ōpōtiki 3122

Nicola McKenzie

NEW WORLD
Te Rapa

New World New Plymouth

Four Square Maungaturoto

Jaswinder Parmar
Owner Operator
New World Glenview

Four Square Onekawa

PAK'N SAVE Te Awamutu

Logan McKenzie

Jamie Brear
Owner Operator
New World Rolleston

Four Square Riverton

New World Mangawhai

Whiskey Sharoo
Owner Operator
New World Merrilands

Four Square Onetangi

Joe Dodd
New World Kaikohe

NEW WORLD THORNDON

Liam Nott
New World Southmall

Four Square Te Aroha

Ollie Newton
Gilmours Hawkes Bay

P.S Tawko

J Bennett
Four Square Bulls

Lance Gerlach
Owner Operator
PAK'nSAVE - Westgate

Julian Gibbs
New World Oterahi

Pukekohe PAK'n SAVE

Ohaulti Four Square

Rayner Bonnington
Henderson Pak'n Save

New World Havelock North

Pak N Save Lower Hutt

Oliver Johnson
Four Square Wellsford

Marco & Rebecca Claassen
New World Green Bay

Lachlan Yung
Owner Operator Four Square Aramoho

Matakana 4 Square

Gilmours Hamilton

Four Square Matakana

New World Silverstream

Mark Trap-Paul
New World The Sands

Mahesh Croswami
Four Square Eltham

Ricky Bowen
Owner Operator
New World Whangamata

Wade Perry
Mangonui Four Square

Four Square Mount Maunganui

R.M. Williams
Owner Operator New World Queen St Metro

Highland Park PNS

New World Metro Willis Street

Mark Oliver
Owner/Operator
PAK'n SAVE Masterton

Four Square Ellerslie

Matthew Harris
New World Gate Pa

Yogita Patel
Lake Taupo Four Square

Mandeep Kaur
Four Square Cockle Bay

NEW WORLD
NEWLANDS

Luke Stock
PAK'nSAVE New Plymouth

New World Whitby

Nalin Kumar Patel
Four Square Thames

Mark Brittenden
New World Birkenhead

4 Square National Park

Cape View 4 Square