

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute further and thank you to the Commission for undertaking this essential enquiry

As Commissioners will be aware, our submission drew attention to there being serious interest in the establishment of a **cooperative consumer supermarket**, initially piloted in Nelson but with the vision of expanding throughout New Zealand.

Such a development would directly benefit retail consumers in the same way as New Zealand's farming cooperatives have benefitted the rural sector over the past 150 years.

Retail cooperatives have a well-established track record including those in Australia and Spain's Mondragon region.

**A cooperative consumer supermarket** will directly address the social responsibility issue of wealth inequality. Full cooperatives redefine market functioning and accord consumers benefits that are unavailable in an investor-driven market. Thus, by ensuring returns go to materially benefit consumers rather than investors. It would materially and positively redress the social contract Tex Edwards has mentioned.

A duopoly benefits the duopoly's investors at the expense of consumers. What's needed is a market that works for all stakeholders including consumers, suppliers and retail providers.

Finally, 1) access to independent wholesale supplies is essential if the playing field is to be levelled  
2) Seeding finance would facilitate the early development of Kiwi Coop