

Attn: Keston Ruxton  
Commerce Commission  
Level 9  
44 The Terrace  
Wellington 6011

Talofa lava Keston,

### **Submission on Commerce Commissions Competition Study**

This submission relates to the Commerce Commission's competition study and factors that may affect competition for the supply or acquisition of groceries by retailers in Aotearoa New Zealand pursuant to section 51(1) in Part 3A of the Commerce Act 1986.

I am making this submission as a member of the Pasifika community with an interest in a more socially and economically just Aotearoa New Zealand.

I strongly agree with the commission's view that intervention in the market is justified. The current duopoly is not working well for suppliers, consumers or the essential workers who put themselves on the line during the pandemic. As demonstrated by the strikes currently taking place in Mangere, the workers, who are mainly Māori and Pasifika, feel they are not receiving a living wage despite the supermarkets making record profits during the pandemic.

I support the proposals for a mandatory code of conduct to govern relations between grocery suppliers and supermarkets and the appointment of a supermarket commissioner. I also support proposals to address problems faced by consumers, including the proposal for mandatory unit pricing. As the commission notes, consistent unit pricing can help consumers compare the price of goods and assess value for money of different brands and pack sizes.

However, in order for meaningful and permanent change to occur, there must be structural interventions. The option to break up the supermarkets and allow others, including Māori entities, to enter the market must remain live.

I believe this would be good for New Zealand as a whole and could inform global approaches to greater inclusivity of Māori and Pasifika communities in the food and food retail industries.

Ma le fa'aaloalo tele lava | Yours sincerely

Tupe Solomon-Tanoa'i

