



# MWDI

MĀORI WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT INC

*PO Box 24066, Manners Street, Wellington 6142*

24 November 2021

Commerce Commission  
Level 9  
44 The Terrace  
Wellington 6011

Tena koe,

This is a submission in relation 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.

In 1987 Māori Women's Welfare League established the Māori Women's Development Fund to assist wāhine Māori into business. In 1997 Māori Women's Development Incorporated (also know as MWDI) was formed. The Trustees of Māori Women's Development Incorporated are the past and current Presidents of the Māori Women's Welfare League.

MWDI encourages the economic development of wāhine Māori and their whānau to ensure that Māori contribute equitably to our nation's cultural, spiritual, economic, social and political achievements. Māori Women have least representation in many key industries, however, as CEO of MWDI, we see a growing swell of wāhine māori innovation & entrepreneurship across the food, merchandising and services sector.

Any significant government induced shift in economic assets needs to consider the government's responsibilities under Te Tiriti to enable and advance Māori economic participation in that sector. Having Māori owned and operated grocery businesses is an essential part of ensuring Māori are reflected as true partners of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Māori SME are only 6-8% of all SME, pointing to significant accumulated inequity over time. Māori ownership in supermarkets would assist in the stimulation of Māori SME growth and innovation in the food supply chain - suppliers to this new entity, will be Māori owned primary producers, processors, and brand owners.

Māori SME employ 3 times more Māori than non-Māori SME meaning that this initiative is likely to lift employment as well. This will also lift the priority employment of Māori Women, capitalising on high retail and service industry expertise, with an emphasis on Managerial roles.



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An altruistic supply chain and merchandising environment would provide a valuable opportunity for Māori Food & Beverage SME to build capability and sector growth.

Māori, continue to be marginalised and by virtue of their lower incomes, feel the impact of variable food prices and inflation more intensely. Equally, regional developments of the sector will lead to better accessibility for our rural communities.

An industry led and developed by Māori with embedded cultural frameworks will not only be good for Māori, but good for New Zealand as a whole.

Ngā mihi

Teresa Tepania-Ashton  
Chief Executive  
Māori Women's Development Inc