



**THANK YOU FOR USING YOUR VOICE AND SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY.  
LISTEN TO OUR ELDERS.**

**For five years Woolworths Group has pursued an application to open a Dan Murphy's liquor store near three dry Aboriginal communities. ELDERS SAY NO! Scroll for ways you can support.**

This week, the NT Government is trying to sidestep the independent Liquor Commission to rush legislation through NT Parliament to fast track the decision to open a Dan Murphy's liquor store near three dry Aboriginal communities. Read more [here](#).

Notably, this week is NAIDOC Week, an opportunity for all people of Australia to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. **Woolworths Group and the NT Government are being sneaky.**

Also, [Woolworths Group partnered with the National NAIDOC Committee](#) this year to distribute NAIDOC posters in their Woolworths Supermarkets. **This behaviour is tokenistic.**

Further information is included at the bottom of this document.

Mandaang guwu (thank you)  
Olivia Williams  
Founder [Blak Business](#)

## **FIVE ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE TO SUPPORT OUR ELDERS FIGHT:**

### **1. SIGN THE PETITION**

Click the image below or visit: [change.org/keepgrogout](https://change.org/keepgrogout)

# Keep grog out of our communities.



103,433 have signed. Let's get to 150,000!



 Annabelle Dennis signed 3 minutes ago.

 Rebecca Stewart signed 4 minutes ago.

## **2. CALL MICHAEL GUNNER (NT CHIEF MINISTER)**

Michael Gunner  
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory  
Phone: 08 8936 5500

My name is [YOUR NAME] and I'm one of the 103,000 people who have signed the petition to relocate Dan Murphy's superstore away from the three dry communities

The urgent legislation threatens to dishonour the requests of Bagot Elders like Aunty Helen who are calling for the liquor superstore not to be opened near her community.

It is unbelievable that in NAIDOC week, the government wants to ignore the requests of the local Aboriginal people and disregard the health and well-being of their people.

Thank you for your time.

## **3. SHOP ELSEWHERE**

If you have the option, shop locally and at other retail stores and supermarkets.

Woolworths Group owns a number of retail stores including Big W, BWS, Dan Murphy's, and Woolworths Supermarkets as well as licensed venues with gambling services.

In July 2020, Woolworths Group-owned business ALH Group was fined \$172k for "systematically" giving patrons free alcohol to encourage their gambling at two NSW hotels.

You can access a full list of Woolworths Group owned businesses [here](#).

#### 4. SUBMIT FEEDBACK TO WOOLWORTHS

Submit a feedback form to Woolworths Group expressing opposition to the Dan Murphy's proposal by following the following steps:

1. Visit [Woolworths Group Contact Us page](#)
2. Select: Store brand N/A
3. Select: Something else not in this list
4. Write: *"I am writing in strong opposition to the proposal to have a Dan Murphy's liquor store opened in Darwin near Bagot. I support the [stance of Bagot Elders](#) and encourage you to reconsider your application"*.
5. Select submit

#### 5. EMAIL WOOLWORTHS GROUP

Send emails to Woolworths Group employees expressing opposition to the Dan Murphy's proposal.

To prevent your email being automatically redirected to spam, please use the wording below as a template and make edits.

Contacts:

[dmarr@woolworths.com.au](mailto:dmarr@woolworths.com.au)

[matthew.strutt@endeavourmarketplace.com.au](mailto:matthew.strutt@endeavourmarketplace.com.au)

[mfirek@woolworths.com.au](mailto:mfirek@woolworths.com.au)

[james.scott-mackenzie@edg.com.au](mailto:james.scott-mackenzie@edg.com.au)

Template:

Woolworths Group,

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposal to have a Dan Murphy's liquor store opened in the Northern Territory near three Aboriginal communities; Bagot, Kulaluk and Minmarama Park. I support the [stance of Bagot Elders](#).

[Dan Murphy's RSA commitment](#), as advertised on your website states that you are a "committed, responsible community member" which "actively pursue harm minimisation". You further state that you "go above and beyond legal compliance to help create an environment that can be enjoyed by all and to always add value to the community rather than adding harm". The hypocrisy here is not lost on me.

Alcohol is not something which can be enjoyed by all peoples or all communities. This is true in all parts of the nation; metro, regional and rural areas. Bagot is a community tackling the negative impacts of alcohol and has asked for Dan Murphy's to not be built on this site. There is a strong, consistent vocal opposition by local community members and Elders about the harm that your business will cause to the community and yet you've remained persistent in your proposal. In 2013, Aunty Helen said: *"[The majority of black fellas in Bagot are drinkers and it's killing us](#)"* and this year she said *"[Domestic violence is a big problem because of alcohol. The alcohol seems to boost the emotions and then they end up having that fight, harming](#)"*

[themselves or others](#)". Here I fail to see how your persistence aligns with your own community stance and intention.

The Liquor Commission provided evidence to show that these communities are vulnerable to alcohol related harm and no amount of harm reduction can overturn these concerns for safety.

Finally, I encourage you to put yourself in the shoes of the mothers and fathers of the Bagot community who had to explain to their children the [recent tragedy](#); this is not normal. I particularly bring your attention to a [community comment](#) in response to the incident: "*There's been a lot of drinking, alcohol going around here lately ... next thing you know, it just gets out of hand,*".

More than ever there is great focus being given to Bla(c)k Lives Matter. Alcohol near a dry, Aboriginal community is a direct threat to the Aboriginal community and everything this movement stands for. I urge you to listen to community voices, to do the right thing and to remove your proposal.

From,  
[YOUR NAME HERE]

### **Background:**

For five years, Woolworths Group has been fighting to open a Dan Murphy's superstore near three dry Aboriginal communities - Bagot, Kulaluk and Minmarama Park - in the Northern Territory.

Elders, community leaders and Aboriginal health organisations have been persistent in their opposition to the proposal. Possible risks of opening a Dan Murphy's in this area include alcohol-fueled violence, pedestrian safety, and the erosion of culture.

Aunty Helen Fejo-Frith of the Bagot community has been particularly vocal and strong in fighting Woolworth's Group. In solidarity with Aunty Helen and the Bagot community, Blak Business started a petition on Change.org to raise public awareness about the issue and to encourage Woolworth's Group to reconsider their application.

Notably, [Dan Murphy's claim](#) to being a "*committed, responsible community member*" that goes "*above and beyond legal compliance to help create an environment that can be enjoyed by all and to always add value to the community rather than adding harm*".

### **Further learning:**

- [Dan Murphy's quest to set up NT store near three dry Indigenous communities enters fifth year](#)
- [Dan Murphy's bid to set up NT store enters fifth year as appeal heads to Supreme Court](#)
- [Dan Murphy's Darwin store plans rejected by NT Liquor Commission](#)
- [Woolworths-controlled pubs used free booze to keep punters on pokies](#)