

# WOOLWORTHS GROUP



Mr Mark Fitt  
Secretary  
Senate Economics Legislation Committee  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

22 October 2020

## **Inquiry into Economic Recovery Package (JobMaker Hiring Credit) Amendment Bill 2020**

Dear Mr Fitt,

Thank you for your letter of 12 October 2020 inviting Woolworths Group to make a submission to the above Inquiry.

As conveyed in a recent communication with our team, Woolworths supports the spirit and design of the JobMaker initiative and its aim to accelerate the growth in the employment of young Australians. However, we believe the current trading circumstances of Woolworths - which are strong and entering its usual business cycle of hiring for Christmas and summer - requires us to be thoughtful as to which government programs we access. Accordingly, we do not believe it would be appropriate for the Group to seek any benefit from JobMaker.

As we enter our busiest trading period of the year, Christmas, we will be recruiting additional team members, measured in the thousands, to support customer demand. These new roles will be provided to Australians of all ages, including many young Australians entering the workplace for the first time. These are opportunities we have offered to young people for generations.

Our decision also reflects an awareness that there is a strong appetite among our existing team members for more hours in these uncertain times. We are absolutely committed to supporting our existing store team members with additional hours wherever possible during the upcoming Christmas and summer period.

Yours sincerely,



Christian Bennett  
Group Head of Reputation  
Government Relations & Industry Affairs

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