

Commerce (Grocery Sector Covenants) Amendment Bill



New Zealand Council Of
Christian Social Services

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Organisation Name:	New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS)
Organisation Description:	The New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Commerce (Grocery Sector Covenants) Amendment Bill. NZCCSS has six foundation members: the Anglican Care Network, Baptist Churches of New Zealand, Catholic Social Services, Presbyterian Support and the Methodist and Salvation Army Churches. Through this membership, NZCCSS represents over 250 organisations providing a range of social support services across Aotearoa. We believe in working to achieve a just and compassionate society for all, through our commitment to our faith and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Further details on NZCCSS can be found on our website https://nzccss.org.nz/

Tirohanga Whānui | Overview

We strongly support the implementation of this amendment, as it stands to take apart one of the main constructs upholding the supermarket duopoly in Aotearoa. Restrictive covenants on land reduce competition and feed into an anti-competitive market environment, allowing supermarket chains to make unreasonable profits at the expense of the most economically deprived sectors of our society.

We are particularly excited to note that this [will make existing covenants unenforceable](#), as much of the land in question is already under these restrictions. The retroactive nature of this legislation will ensure market competition which will reduce the excess profits of the grocery sector, allow the introduction of new players in the market and reduce costs for families already experiencing the hardest effects of the cost-of-living crisis.