

## Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

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**Submitted by:** Woolworths Group  
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State Development and Regional Industries Committee  
Committee Secretariat  
Parliament House  
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**Submission to the Queensland State Development and Regional Industries Committee's  
Consultation on *Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation  
Amendment Bill***

Woolworths Group (Woolworths) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Queensland State Development and Regional Industries Committee's consultation on the *Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill* (the Bill).

Woolworths is one of Australia's oldest and largest retailers, serving the community since our establishment in 1924. Today, we are Australia's largest private sector employer with ~180,000 team members, including over 37,000 team members across 300 Woolworths supermarkets, Big W stores, distribution centres and support offices in Queensland.

Woolworths is committed to ensuring that our retail spaces are safe environments for the community to work and shop. In 2023, we saw a notable increase in aggression and violence at Woolworths and Big W. In response, we have implemented proactive measures to help mitigate the misuse of knives. This includes the use of tamper-proof packaging, age verification at point of sale and the deranging of knives in around 200 sites nationally. For this reason, we support the Queensland Government's objective to reduce knife crime.

We have outlined below sections of the Bill, we believe warrant further consideration.

#### **Transition period**

In order to effectively implement the proposed amendments in the Bill, a sufficient transition period will be required to conduct comprehensive training for our team members, review product displays and work with manufacturers to enhance packaging across a broader range of products.

#### **Written acknowledgement**

Section 19H of the Bill, should allow for 'written acknowledgement' to be provided electronically, using an acknowledgement checkbox. This electronic option streamlines the administrative process and enhances our ability to monitor and ensure compliance with the Bill.

### **Securing Controlled Items**

The Bill should allow for tamper-proof packaging as a suitable means of securing controlled items, recognising the challenges associated with having products in locked cabinets or tethered whilst on display.

We have worked with manufacturers to introduce tamper-proof packaging for items such as knives and scissors, offering a practical and accessible way of securing these products whilst on display. This is our preferred method of securing these items as it balances visibility for customers with enhanced security from manufacture to the final destination.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Committee's consultation on the Bill. We strive to be a partner to the Government on this important issue and welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission or relevant matters.

### **Woolworths Group**