



## STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT WHOLESALERS LIMITED

### **Tasmania RDC operations temporarily suspended after snowfall damage overnight**

#### **5th August 2020:**

Operations at Tasmania Regional Distribution Centre have been suspended today after security on site detected roof damage at around 1am this morning (5th August) following heavy snowfall.

All sections of the site (ambient, liquor, chilled and produce) sustained some structural roof damage due to the weight of the snow on the roof with the Temperature Controlled section bearing the brunt of it. Most of the site is structurally sound, however there is water damage throughout the site.

Team members who were due to start their shift at 3am were told not to come to work as the site clean up takes place today.

The ambient section will likely reopen today and the produce section tomorrow after the damage is properly assessed and it is deemed safe to return. However, the Temperature Controlled section will be out for a period of time.

Chilled and Frozen products will be sourced via the Woolworths Group DCs until the Temperature Controlled section of the DC is able to resume operations.

The Tasmanian Regional Distribution Centre, located in Western Junction, is operated by Statewide Independent Wholesalers (SIW).

Drew Freeman, General Manager Statewide Independent Wholesalers (SIW) said SIW was working with Woolworths Group Supply Chain on its business continuity plan to continue to service Tasmanian customers and minimise any disruption to supply.

"This was a 1 in a 100 year weather event. There was a weather warning from the Bureau of Meteorology but never did anyone expect this to happen," Mr Freeman said.

"Regrettably, we do expect there will be a short term impact on supply into the Tasmanians stores we serve.

"SIW has a close working relationship with Woolworths Group Supply Chain and we'll draw on its support to help keep supply flowing after this unusual event."

The DC services both the Woolworths Group (Woolworths Supermarkets, BWS and Dan Murphy's) and Tasmanian Independent Retailers (IGA and Independent supermarkets).

There was still more than 10 centimetres of snow on the ground at the site at 9am this morning and by midday it still had not melted.

The security personnel on site at the time of the roof damage were not injured.

#### **Site Contact:**

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