

Battle looming on trolley front

RESIDENTS of Oatley West have a message for Coles: open a supermarket in our suburb and we will boycott it.

Organisers of the boycott said they were outraged that the Land and Environment Court ignored the 1400 residents who wrote letters and signed petitions opposing the supermarket development when it reversed a decision by Hurstville Council and approved the 1830-square-metre supermarket and townhouse development at 47-67 Mulga Road, Oatley.

Developer Renaldo Gaiety said residents would get a boutique style development that would enhance the shopping strip.

Now, residents said, they might have to live with a supermarket but they would not have to use it.

"The talk of a boycott is very strong," said Oatley resident Anne Wagstaff.

"Older people are saying we have to boycott Coles while others are saying we have to boycott all Coles Myer stores. We are encouraging people to do whatever they can do. We must fight against the Colesonisation of our suburb."

Mrs Wagstaff, a seasoned campaigner

who fought the Hutchison video phone tower in Oatley Park in 2003, has formed a residents action group, Oatley Residents Against Overdevelopment (ORAO) which will work hand-in-hand with the Oatley Residents' Action Group Inc.

"We are also in contact with residents in Maleny in Queensland who have been fighting a Woolworths supermarket opening in their town," Mrs Wagstaff said.

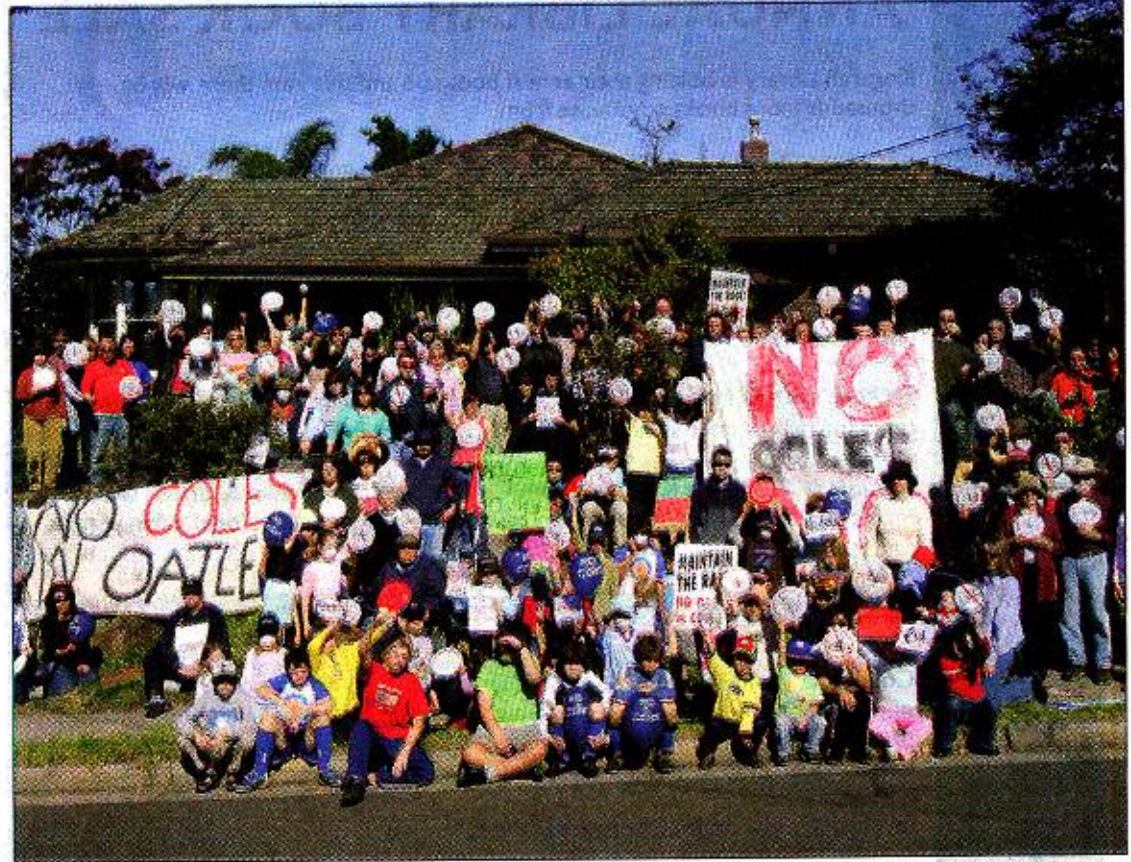
Oatley Residents Association Association Inc secretary Ted Cooper said he knew of many people who would consider boycotting the supermarket.

"Coles are saying it will be a small supermarket for Oatley, when what they really want to do is tap into the region," Mr Cooper said.

Another resident, Alan Fairley said a petition showing the intention to boycott the supermarket was circulating and had already been signed by many hundreds of people.

"This is not just residents who live around the development but extends well

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Coles comfort: Some of the Oatley residents who say they will boycott the proposed Coles supermarket.

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