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Cast's IGA hits wall



Ashley Clark | 26th Nov 2014 5:00 AM

CAST'S Supa IGA in Bargara and Moore Park have gone into liquidation as of last Thursday.

According to appointed liquidator of Worrells Solvency and Forensic Accountants Chris Cook, the two businesses will remain open until new owners are found.

Mr Cook said the stores are backed by Metcash and the aim was to keep the businesses open so current employees can keep their jobs.

"The plan of attack is to keep both stores running," he said.

"It is still early days yet but once we have more information we will be providing staff with an update on where the stores are headed," he said.

Both stores were owned by Kevin Cast and, according to Bargara store manager John Smith, the liquidation was a long time coming.

"It was always bound to happen with Woolworths moving into the complex and seven-day trading starting," he said. "Kevin always warned us and unfortunately that is just the way goes."

Mr Smith said Cornett's IGA have been put in place as the caretakers of both stores until a buyer is found.

Local Moore Park resident Peter Pugh is already feeling the sting of the changes when he was told by management that he would not be able to redeem his customer loyalty points.

"Late last year I joined Cast's IGA Moore Park Beach smart rewards customer loyalty card scheme," he said.

"I had spent almost \$8000 to gain \$80 rewards which could be redeemed against goods."

"When I shopped there last week I was told that the smart rewards was no longer in operation."

Mr Pugh, who is a pensioner, intended to use his rewards points to get a few extras for Christmas.

"I have no doubt that I wasn't the only customer thinking this way," he said.

"I feel we should repaid for our loyalty in supporting our local store and if nothing else be treated as a creditor who is owed much the same as say Coca-Cola, Cadbury or Nestle."

Kevin Cast has been involved in the supermarket industry since his early 20s and owned the Bargara Supa IGA for 16 years.

Every year Cast's Supa IGA put \$150,000 back into the region through donations and sponsorships.

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