

TDN 16/08/2012.

# End to supermarket battles welcomed

## Outlet expected to open next year

**Hannah Fleming**  
hannah.fleming@dailynews.co.nz

A prolonged dispute over the old Westown Woolworths has finally ended, and the supermarket site is now set for redevelopment.

Conflict between supermarket giants Foodstuffs and Progressive Enterprises has surrounded the abandoned building since Foodstuffs bought the Progressive-leased property in 2008.

Foodstuffs' intention to develop a New World on the property sparked a protracted legal battle over who had the right to lease the land.

A High Court decision eventually granted Foodstuffs the right to boot Progressive off the Westown site and develop its own New World supermarket when the lease expired last month.

Foodstuffs property and retail development general manager Marty Price said redevelopment work would begin next month and there would be no further dealings with Progressive.

"We expect to be able to provide the local community with a brand new Westown New World by the end of 2013."

The 2050-square-metre store will include a cafe and improved parking facilities.

"We really want to give Westown residents greater choice and something new when it comes to grocery shopping," Mr Price said.



**Dispute over:** The old Westown Woolworths building will be demolished next month. Photo: ANDY JACKSON/FAIRFAX NZ

"The demolition of the old building signals the first major step towards delivering this offer."

When Progressive closed Woolworths last May, after opening its new Countdown supermarket in Spotswood, many Westown residents were upset at the loss of their local store.

Jeni Kearns, of Westown, said it was about time the "supermarket wars" had come to an end.

"The whole saga regarding this supermarket is a disgrace . . . it was the little people who were affected.

"Many people bought in Upper Westown because the supermarket was there."

Mrs Kearns said she was looking forward

to having a store handy again, which would save her the trip into town.

Grey Power president Barry Watt said it had been an inconvenience, particularly to those who were less mobile.

"I think reopening it will make a world of difference to those living in the Westown area," he said.

Although City New World had introduced a bus service, Mr Watt said a reincarnation of the old supermarket would be a bonus.

"Rather than going to the so-called corner store, or catching the bus to the city, there will be a supermarket not so far away which will be a big help to a great deal of people."