

Wilton supermarket struggling to stay open

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Plea: Paul and Rene Randall, with children Aidan and Maliyah, are struggling to keep their SPAR Wilton store afloat and need people to shop locally. Picture: Simon Bennett

They thought they would be catering to thousands of customers a week but the SPAR Wilton supermarket owners are struggling to make ends meet.

Paul Randall and his family fear they will be out of business within six months if sales do not pick up.

They are asking the Wilton community to shop local and support a family-friendly business.

“We opened the store in January 2016 because we wanted to be part of a growing community in a new estate,” Mr Randall said.

“We had discussions with Wollondilly Council, state government departments and developers Lendlease about the potential growth of Bingara Gorge.

“We made the decision based on the future projected growth of the estate and now there have been numerous delays and issues.

“The growth of the area has not reached the level we expected.”

A Lendlease spokeswoman last month said land registration could not proceed until the completion of Stringybark Creek Bridge which needed federal government approval.

The approval was put on hold whilst Wollondilly Council took Lendlease to the Land and Environment Court about the master plan. Lendlease then had to relodge its application.

Mr Randall has been put in a “vulnerable” financial position because of the land registration delays.

“We are now struggling to survive because the cost of doing business is too high,” he said.

“We need more dwellings here so people can move in and support us.”

Mr Randall took to Facebook to ask locals to support his supermarket and noticed an increase in sales in the days after.

“Our sales increased by 20 per cent which shows people care about our plight and that we have an amazing community,” he said. “It shows that we have enough people locally to help us survive in the short to medium term.”

Mr Randall said his store’s appeal was convenience and friendly service plus an extensive variety of products.

“We are asking people to remember we are here and to shop local,” he said.

