



**MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Co-op now in Port Macquarie
New store to complement Charles Sturt University's newest campus**

The Co-op, Australia's largest member-owned retailer, has announced it will open a new store in early October to complement Charles Sturt University's (CSU) newest campus in Port Macquarie. This latest new full line store, which includes a café, further fosters the group as the leading multi-channel campus retailer.

The new store will allow the Co-op to further honour its commitment to higher education, supporting students and staff and improving the overall university experience by providing relevant products and services at affordable prices. The store will offer textbooks and specialist learning materials, along with a range of general merchandise including fiction and non-fiction books, tech gear, beauty items, fitness, stationery and software, as well as unique CSU branded apparel and memorabilia.

In addition, the store will be a space to promote CSU in the Mid-North Coast by providing promotional material on the University's course offerings and development updates on CSU's new permanent campus.

The Port Macquarie site, to be located in the Lake Innes Village shopping centre that is adjacent to the new campus site, will be equipped with an in-house café, the third Co-op store to offer this facility.

"It really is very exciting to be able to establish ourselves at CSU Port Macquarie at a time when the campus is still developing," said Peter Knock, the Co-op's Chief Executive Officer. "Opening up the Port Macquarie store ensures the campus' students and staff have access to the Co-op's great range of products and services just as easily as the broader Charles Sturt community. We are passionate about supporting students, both during their studies and beyond, and we're really looking forward to forging strong relationships with Port Macquarie's students and staff long into the future."

CSU Port Macquarie Campus Development Manager Miss Amanda Quinn said the University and the Co-op have a long-standing partnership and was pleased to see this continue in Port Macquarie.

"The provision of a Co-op retail store means our current and prospective students will have access to additional higher education products and services at their doorstep," said Miss Quinn.

CSU Port Macquarie is currently in the development stages of becoming a full-service campus with a comprehensive course profile for up to 5,000 students by 2030.

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For further information or to request an interview with **Peter Knock**, please contact **Loretta Rezk**, phone: **(02) 9325 9602**

To request an interview with **Amanda Quinn**, please contact **Mark O'Brien**, CSU Media, phone: **(02) 6365 7813**

Notes to Editor:

About The Co-op:

- Australia's largest member owned retailer with over 1.8 million members
- Australia's largest campus retailer and largest Co-operative
- Australia's oldest online retailer (since 1996) and now one of Australia's largest e-commerce sites - www.coop.com.au
- 2013 + 2014 Australian Retailers Association Multichannel Retailer of the Year Runner Up
- Australia's most innovative omni-channel retailer
- Australians preeminent source of knowledge for future leaders
- Formed in 1958, owned by members for members
- 57 stores nationwide and growing
- Lifetime membership (\$25 once off) open to everyone – extensive member benefits
- Multi-product retailer (includes computers, tablets, tech gear, apparel, fiction, non-fiction, gadgets and games)