

Traders flag legal tussle

By Melissa Meehan

SPRINGVALE South traders have not ruled out taking their case to bring Aldi to their struggling shopping centre to the high courts.

Last July, Springvale Plaza trader David Batten told the Star that Aldi had approached the body corporate to open a

If the body corporate agreed, Aldi then planned to apply to the City of Greater Dandenong for a permit to build a store in the Plaza, in a move that Mr Batten said would revitalise trade in the area.

But three traders at the Shopping Centre refuse to support it.

Without their support Aldi cannot be

On Thursday, traders took part in a Compulsory Conference, which Mr Batten described as a mediation meeting.

"Unfortunately, we were unable to come to a solution," he said.

"So now we will be going to a formal hearing in front of a tribunal on October 16."

A majority of traders

were trying to come to a resolution where the body corporate could sell a part of the Shopping Centre to Aldi, and leave the planning decisions to the local council.

"We really can't agree on the number of car parks," he said.

"But we believe that that sort of thing should be determined by the council."

He said it was vital to the Springvale

Plaza's survival that a large retailer like Aldi move in.

"Obviously we are trying to secure the fate of the shopping centre," he said.

"The whole shopping centre's future is in question."

He said if VCAT did not support their fight they could not rule out taking it to the High Court.