

Committee Secretary  
Education, Employment and Training Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

To the Committee Secretary,

Regarding the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990; I would like to comment on the key reference points of the inquiry and provide some recommendations, as a consumer and local resident in Brisbane.

I agree in principle with the changes that occurred in 2017, that provided simplicity in the act and longer trading hours on Saturday. While these changes were appreciated by both retail businesses and the consumer, they only contributed to minor deregulation of trading hours in both Southeast and regional Queensland.

The suitability of permitted hours that currently stand does not reflect the need of the modern-day consumer, nor to the expansion of the retail sector. We live in a 7-day economy in which a progressive amount of industry operates 24 hours a day. Due these circumstances people that work in these industries have limited time to buy essential goods at competitive prices. Allowing retail to trade unrestricted to reflect the need of the consumer market, can help alleviate this current problem.

As well as providing better convenience and access to bricks and mortar stores, deregulation of retail can improve logistics in the online market. This can provide the ability for supermarkets and other retail to pack and deliver online orders for click and collect at lockers and pick up points, as well as for home delivery later into the evening 7 days a week.

Covid 19 and other issues such as natural disasters have contributed to the need of retail deregulation. Disasters can happen quickly and retail needs the ability to change hours to suit the trading environment. This can only happen, if there is full deregulation in the sector to ensure trading decisions are made by the retail establishment, to reflect the circumstances.

In the coming decade, Queensland is expecting exponential growth in the tourism and event sector, foremost in Southeast Queensland and the Brisbane Metropolitan area. While the current law allows for unrestricted trade for special events, the application and approval process through the QIRC is slow and costly. This doesn't allow for timely approval before an event takes place for marketing of trading hours and to fulfil the labour need of those trading hours. Deregulation of trading hours will

provide stability of trading hours across the year and provide assurance to the consumer that a store is open.

Observing the deregulated trading hour arrangements in Mossman and Port Douglas, provides evidence that retail businesses can open and close to conditions and reflect the need of the consumer. Replicating these trading arrangements across the State and foremost Southeast Queensland will ensure growth in the retail sector, which can provide economic benefits to the labour and tourism markets.

I hope through due process, that the findings of the committee recommend full retail deregulation in Southeast and regional Queensland.

Thank you for the opportunity for this submission and if the committee requires further clarification, please contact me directly by phone or email.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Aschman

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