

AWUEQ

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TOGETHER**

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13 October 2021

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

By email: EETC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Hansen,

Re: Inquiry into the Operation of the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990

The Australian Workers' Union of Employees, Queensland (AWUEQ) expresses the following views in relation to the inquiry into the Operation of the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 ('the Inquiry')

The AWUEQ has members in a wide range of retail stores throughout rural and regional Queensland and therefore has an interest in the Inquiry.

The AWUEQ notes the terms of reference for the Inquiry and submits that there is no well-founded reason for changing the *Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990* (Qld) ('the Act'). The AWUEQ's experience is that the provisions within the Act already provide an appropriate balance between the interests of retailers, retail workers, shoppers and other stakeholders in the regional towns and cities where we have retail members.

Our experience is that provisions dealing with exempt shops as defined in section 5 of the Act are working well and do not require any amendment by Parliament.

Specifically, we are of the view that there are enough retail stores covered by section 5(1)(a) of the Act and that this class of exempt shops does not need to be expanded further.

We also are of the view that the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission ('QIRC') has jurisdiction under section 5 of the Act to declare a 'special event' when needed to continue to provide an effective balance between all the relevant stakeholders.

Please feel free to contact me by email secretary@awu.org.au or telephone 1800 298 753 should you wish to discuss these submissions.

Kind Regards

Steve Baker
Branch Secretary

Secretary / Branch Secretary: Steve Baker