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## **BRENDALE REGION**

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## 15 October 2021

Ms Kim Richards MP Chair Education, Employment and Training Committee Via email: EETC@parliament.gld.gov.au

Dear Ms Richards,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Education, Employment and Training Committee's inquiry into the Operation of the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 ('the Act').

ALDI welcomes the Committee's inquiry and wishes to make comment on the third term of reference which relates to the ALDI business: 'the effects of trading hours regulation on the Queensland economy and on regional Queensland.'

ALDI operates 113 stores across Queensland and directly employs over 2,800 people in the State. In 2009, ALDI opened a store in Kingaroy, Queensland, which is unable to operate on Sundays due to limitations under the Act. Of the 571 ALDI stores in Australia, Kingaroy is the only store in our network that is unable to operate seven days a week.

ALDI prides itself on providing good value for our customers, as well as fair pay and conditions for our employees. We are also very proud of our contribution to the Queensland economy and the impact we have had on the lives of Queenslanders. Since 2004, ALDI has rapidly grown its presence within Queensland from 2 to 113 stores and employing over 2,800 people within the State. During the 17 years we have operated in Queensland, ALDI has contributed significantly to the Queensland economy by way of new and upgraded stores, local business partnerships and employment; in 2018 alone we contributed over \$438 million to the State economy. ALDI has an Australia-first sourcing approach, with these partnerships representing a significant component of our contribution to the Queensland economy.

If the Kingaroy store were permitted to trade seven days a week, we estimate the additional 520 hours of trading per year would result in three extra staff in the store and wages for those staff of approximately \$152,800. The extra day of trading would further benefit our existing local suppliers and partnerships and further strengthen ALDI's economic contribution to Queensland.

ALDI is strongly in favour of legislative reform that would permit stores in regional Queensland to trade on Sundays and would be keen to extend the operation of ALDI Kingaroy from six days a week to seven.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission at a public hearing and either myself or our Property Director, Brendan Geary would be happy to make ourselves available at the upcoming hearing relating to the inquiry's third term of reference on Monday 25 October. If you wish to discuss this submission further, please contact on (07) or to arrange a suitable time.

Yours sincerely

Bronwyn Post Managing Director