



To Whom it May Concern,

**RE: Enquiry into the Operation of the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990
Exemptions – Port Douglas and Mossman Tourist Area**

Tourism Port Douglas Daintree (TPDD) is the local tourism organisation for the Douglas Shire where tourism contributes to more than 80% of our region's economy making us one of the most reliant regions in Australia on the visitor economy. TPDD has a diverse membership base representing 193 businesses.

Our region of almost 12,000 people achieved more than 2.4 million visitor room nights annual on average before COVID-19. Driving these numbers, is the domestic market with 359,000 visitors and 1.9 million room nights while international visitors totalled 97,000 compared to 92,000 the previous year while total room nights reached 533,000.

In 2012, following issues for business owners opening during restricted hours, TPDD made representation to the government. Given the particular nature of tourism dependence of the area, there is an expectation that tourists (who visit such tourist areas during public holiday periods and most especially on Sundays, where the region receives an influx of day travellers for the Sunday Markets) be presented with a region that appears to be bustling, and where tourist related services and activities abound, including much needed retail.

TPDD strongly urges the government grant a 10 year extension to allow all businesses to trade on public holidays and Sundays, and expand the moratorium to apply to all of the Douglas Shire given the wide spread reliance on tourism, visitor dispersal and growth in the drive market.

We ask the Department to consider the points supporting our request for an extension:

1. Heavy regional reliance on tourism;
2. Visitor market expects and needs 7 day trading for Saturday arrivals and overall visitor experience;
3. The region has a high proportion of self catering accommodation whose guests rely on and expect 7 day retail trading upon arrival and throughout their stay;
4. Christmas and Easter periods are times of very high occupancy and should not be hindered by restricted trading on public holidays.
5. The local restaurant and café sector has limited capacity to cater to the needs of all the visitors during the Christmas and Easter holidays;
6. Sunday trading provides an opportunity for local youth to have jobs during high school, creating pathways for future growth.

Any changes that adversely impact a business's ability to trade on public holidays and Sundays, will have a significant adverse impact on the visitor experience and ability for the region to maximise income from the visitor economy.

We welcome the opportunity for further discussion regarding the points raised in this statement. For all enquiries, please contact the Chief Executive Officer of TPDD on [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]

Tara Bennett
Chief Executive Officer
Tourism Port Douglas Daintree