

Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

Submission No: 1
Submitted by: Bluewater Financial Pty Ltd trading as Kaia Day Spa
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Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

"Having been involved in the steering committee, and the group that lobbied for the moratorium on the determination of trading hours for Port Douglas back in 2016-2017, and remain a staunch supporter of the extension of this concession moving forward. This support is based on a number of key influences; 1. Determining Trading Hours = Small Business Self Determination Many expected that business owners would extend hours, exploit staff and cause industrial unrest. To the contrary small businesses across Port Douglas have used the dispensation, to tailor their opening and closing hours, to meet customer, business, staff, customer and lifestyle demands. In my own business, I value the fact that I can open every day of the year, as there are guests seeking spa treatments every day of the year. That said, we have even chosen to close Christmas Day, so as to show that we are not taking advantage of the dispensation, we are using it properly to benefit all the parties above. 2. Occupational Health and Safety As employers we have a federal obligation to provide a safe and secure workplace, once where overworking and tiredness, can lead to fatigue and injury - this obligation is taken seriously across Port Douglas, with employers valuing their staff's commitments to the business. 3 - Lack of Availability of Staff / Accommodation post COVID. Given staff and accommodation challenges post COVID, that are crippling business, non extension of the dispensation, at this stage would signal another area of a person's small business, being externally managed. Most restaurants can only open five days per week due to staff constraints, they therefore are not in a position to consider this dropping to 4 or 3, due to public holidays or a shift in trading hours provisions. 4. Cruise Ships With cruise ship travel now reopening, Port Douglas is a popular Port for the ship companies, ease of access to the marina, simple tendering on and off process, good infrastructure, and a tourist driven town, willing to welcome and entertain their guests for the day. This industry is expected to come back strong, and we want to be at the forefront of it, post COVID. 5 . Ecotourism The focus on the dispensation being extended to the whole of the Douglas Shire cannot be undermined, and must be put in place. We have built a reputation for environmentally friendly, eco tourism in the area, thanks to the efforts of our tourism bodies such as Tourism Port Douglas Daintree and our suite of sustainability focused tourist operators, they showcase the whole region, from Wangetti Trail in the South to the wonder of the Daintree Rainforest in the North. These business owners require the same levels of dispensation and flexibility to operate their businesses, showing guests around, at a time and date that this is acceptable to the operator and the guests, lets remember the wonder of the Douglas Shire"

Submitter Recommendations:

"It is therefore my recommendation as a business owner, thought leader, and member of the executive of the Douglas Chamber of Commerce, that the following recommendations be adopted; 1. Dispensation for Trading Hours determination to be extended for a further 5 years 2. This dispensation be extended across the Douglas Shire, to allow businesses north and south of the Daintree River to determine the delivery of tourism focused products, on days and times that suit the operator and the clients. In post COVID recovery period, where Port Douglas and the Douglas Shire were crippled by COVID related losses, this is one concession that the government can make with confidence, that Douglas Shire businesses, can be trusted with and effectively continue to deliver quality products without the restrictions placed on trading times / days."