

To The Research Director,
Finance and Administration Committee,

In reference to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017; I would like to praise and support the proposals, yet express a couple of concerns to the committee regarding the bill for considering amendment.

With respect to the proposal for non exempt stores to close on Christmas eve at 6pm each year. In previous years consumers could always pick up last minute items on Christmas eve, when it fell on a weekday or Saturday being last Christmas eve, until 9pm. How can a 6pm close scenario be effective when people are still at work until 5-6pm on Christmas eve? It erodes choice and convenience for consumers to pick up goods needed for Christmas Day.

The best scenario in this case is still to allow non exempt stores to remain open voluntarily between 6pm and 9pm Monday-Saturday (Se Qld) and Monday-Friday (Regional Qld), when Christmas eve falls on these days. Working these hours should be voluntary and if stores do not have the employees? The option may not be able to trade until 9pm. This will provide certainty and convenience for people on Christmas eve to pick up last minute items required to enjoy their Christmas Day.

The other main concern regarding the Bill is the number of stores that can trade later evenings in the Brisbane area. Since there will be a 5 year moratorium on no changes to retail hours in Inner City Brisbane. Can an amendment be sought to have the designated tourist zone extended to include the whole of the Brisbane CBD, Fortitude Valley, RNA precinct, Woolloongabba (West of Ipswich Road), South Brisbane, Southbank, Petrie Terrace and West End precincts. To trade on and reflect the proposed extended trading hours for Tourism Precincts until 10pm Monday-Saturday and until 9pm Sundays and most Public Holidays. This will ensure convenience for local Brisbane inner city residents and help the CBD area grow as a 7 day/night destination, allowing for tourism growth over the next 5 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission and hope these suggestions are taken into consideration for amendments to the bill.

Yours faithfully,

Andrew Aschman