

Submission

To:

Research Director
Finance and Administration Committee
Parliament House
George Street., Brisbane Qld 4000

I object to further deregulation of Trading Hours (Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendments Bill 2017) because:

1. The state government is planning changes to trading hours which will make it easier for Coles and Woolworths to swamp local, community-run supermarkets – my family business will suffer as a result;
2. The facts are:
 - Giving the green light to Coles and Woolworths to open longer hours is at my expense;
 - Community-based family-owned businesses provide vital support to the heart of townships – this is at risk.
 - As local businesses close, consumers have less shopping choice
 - Queenslander's jobs lost in independent stores are replaced in major chains at half the rate.
 - When you shop with your local community supermarket your money stays in the local economy,
3. Independent research* in rural and regional Queensland shows that people do not want more power to Coles and Woolworths:
 - People are far more concerned about jobs and improving basics like transport.
 - The vast majority of voters (85%) are satisfied with opening hours as they are.
 - 60% of people do not want to see more dominance for Coles/Woolworths.

In summary, there are two reasons why object further deregulation of Trading Hours

1. it is politically significant that regional Queensland does not want a Brisbane-based solution forced upon them. Regional people are wise enough to see the negative impacts that removing long standing regulations will have. They are much more concerned about maintaining real competition, real choice and keeping local jobs.
2. My business will suffer and is at risk of closing if trading hours are extended.