



Speech by

**PHIL REEVES**

**MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD**

---

Hansard 18 November 1998

**TRADING (ALLOWABLE HOURS) AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr REEVES** (Mansfield—ALP) (9.52 p.m.): As a member of an electorate which is dominated by the retail industry, I believe it is appropriate for me to talk on this Bill. The Minister should be applauded for achieving a successful outcome for the people who work in the retail industry. I had numerous concerns expressed to me by people within the industry that they had to work on Boxing Day. It is not that those people do not like work, but I do not think that anyone would begrudge them having Boxing Day and Christmas Day off. If this problem was not addressed, many people, particularly those travelling back to their home towns, would have been forced to be separated from their families during this special time.

To most of us, Christmas is about going home and catching up with family and friends. There is no doubt that, most especially, those who work in the industry will be all shopped out by Christmas Eve closing time, so no-one would have the energy, let alone the money, to keep spending on Boxing Day. It is important to note that all key stakeholders and the Opposition have agreed with this very important amendment of the Act. No-one will be disadvantaged.

While on the subject of the retail industry, I take this opportunity to compliment one of the largest retail outlets in my electorate, namely, Garden City. Garden City's AMP management has impressed me since I was elected in June. Their practices, particularly in the area of disabilities, are second to none in Australia. Their program called Shop Mobility, whereby they provide free of charge wheelchairs, including motorised ones, for patrons to use should be commended. I know how important this service is to people, and it is appreciated by those who normally would not be able to go shopping—something which many of us take for granted. The shopping centre recently received an award in its support of Disability Access Week. The shopping centre was full of activities and information for people with disabilities, including a range of community group displays.

Garden City management—the AMP group—contacted me upon my election to this place to discuss the possibility of gaining a Police Beat shopfront for the centre. Unlike my predecessor, I could easily understand the major community benefit of having a Police Beat shopfront where the people are. With over 200,000 people using the centre each week, I was happy to inform the management of the success of my lobbying of the Police Minister. The present indications are that the Police Beat shopfront at Garden City will be open for business when the new cinema complex opens on 17 December.

Recently, discussions have also taken place with the AMP management to take up initiatives with public space and young people. While these discussions are in early days, the mere fact that a group such as AMP management is willing to discuss assisting young people in recreation is most encouraging. It was AMP management who also first alerted me to the major concerns of its retailers regarding this public holiday. I hold the performance and operators of Garden City management in the highest regard. I look forward to continuing to work with retail management groups such as AMP because of their refreshing approach.

I take this opportunity to wish all those who work in or own retail shops in my electorate a very merry Christmas and a prosperous new year. I say to them: enjoy your extra days off courtesy of this, the Employment Minister's amendment.