



Speech by

**Hon. P. BRADDY**

**MEMBER FOR KEDRON**

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Hansard 8 December 1999

**TRADING (ALLOWABLE HOURS) AMENDMENT BILL**

**Hon. P. J. BRADDY** (Kedron—ALP) (Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations) (4.34 p.m.), in reply: I thank the member for Clayfield, the Opposition spokesperson on the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill, for his support and words of support on behalf of the Opposition. I think it is important to adopt a bipartisan approach where we can on these issues. I express my appreciation that the member at all times on this issue, both this time and on the previous occasions, has indicated that he would support any sensible solution, and he has been as good as his word. It is important to note that there will be no change to the appointed public holidays over the forthcoming Christmas/new year period. There were some who would have preferred some extra public holidays. The Government made a decision that that should not be done. I think this is a good compromise. The retail traders and the unions have supported it, although there are some supplementary issues outside this legislation which made that easier to do.

I thank the SDA, the union involved in the retail industry, for their support. I also thank the RAQ. There were some matters that arose between us after this decision was made. They showed goodwill in turn by making certain arrangements about the shopping hours to be worked on New Year's Eve by reducing them so that workers would be able to get home a few hours earlier. Trading will virtually finish at 6 o'clock on New Year's Eve. But that is not part of the legislation. Over the last two years we have been able to get agreement between the Government, the Opposition, the RAQ and the unions. I think that that is a very healthy sign of a sensible community operating for the benefit of the workers, for the retailers and for the clients—the customers. The amendments proposed in this Bill address valid concerns raised within the retail industry whilst at the same time ensuring that adequate shopping days will be available to the public over the holiday period. That is very important. The workers have been given a fair go as well.

I say in conclusion that this Government remains committed to strongly supporting the autonomy of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. We take the view that the determination of trading hours for retail and non-exempt shops still is and should be a matter for decision by that tribunal based on submissions placed before it. This amendment Bill reinforces this position by ensuring that the commission will have full jurisdiction to determine all trading hours arrangements in future cases where substituted public holidays are appointed. I thank my colleagues in Government for their support. I thank the member for Clayfield and the Opposition for their support. The arrangements entered into by the trading community can now go ahead for their benefit and for the benefit of the customers.

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