



Speech by

ANDREW McNAMARA

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

Hansard 6 March 2002

TRADING [ALLOWABLE HOURS] AMENDMENT BILL

Mr McNAMARA (Hervey Bay—ALP) (9.29 p.m.): I am very pleased to support the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2002. This important piece of legislation simply gives the people what they want. Make no mistake, what they want overwhelmingly is to be able to shop at times that are convenient to them. Much has been said about the need to have family friendly legislation, but I know from personal experience that our large retail shops in Hervey Bay are full of families doing their shopping on Sunday afternoons.

I do not have any problem with Sunday shopping as long as workers are appropriately remunerated for their sacrifice. I acknowledge that small retailers would like to live in a different legislative environment, but the vast majority of people in my electorate want choice and flexibility and the tide not to be turned back on this issue.

I note that this bill does not change anything in relation to my electorate of Hervey Bay, but that Hervey Bay has been flagged as one area in which the Retailers Association of Queensland will bring a further application in the reasonably near future. Hervey Bay is a tourist town with 90,000 people coming to see the whales each year and 340,000 visiting Fraser Island annually. We are marketing Hervey Bay as the most successful city in Queensland, and indeed in Australia—a city purpose-built and friendly for people with disabilities and mobility issues. Tourism Queensland is specifically pushing Hervey Bay as a drive destination just three hours up the road from Brisbane. Hervey Bay is the perfect weekend holiday destination.

But having said that, it would be untenable if all of those visitors did not get the shopping options and flexibility that they expect in a modern holiday destination. For all of those reasons and for all the families in my electorate, I support the bill. The moteliers, the restaurateurs and many other small businesses that thrive on the tourism industry require flexible shopping hours. I commend the bill, I commend the minister and I welcome the introduction of this legislation into the House.
