



Speech by

**JO-ANN MILLER**

**MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**

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Hansard 6 March 2002

**TRADING [ALLOWABLE HOURS] AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (3.55 p.m.): The introduction of Sunday trading in a single zone in the south-east of this state will not only bring uniformity and better service but, most importantly, it will bring more jobs for Queenslanders. That is what this government is about: jobs, jobs, jobs. Despite the concerns of the opposition, there is in fact no evidence that the introduction of Sunday trading for south-east Queensland will result in job losses. To the contrary, all the evidence available indicates that this decision will result in a significant increase in jobs within the retail sector.

Since the introduction of core trading hours by the Goss Labor government in 1994, that is, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Friday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, the Queensland retail sector has grown by a massive 29.9 per cent. That is an additional 52,500 jobs. Coles Myer has specifically indicated to the government that it expects to create an additional 460 full-time equivalent jobs before the end of the year as a result of this decision. Indeed, in evidence given to the Industrial Relations Commission to extend Sunday trading, traders like the Colorado Group, Foot Locker, Bakers Delight, Terry White Chemists and Angus and Robertson bookshops expected to increase staff numbers.

Experiences of trading hours deregulation in New South Wales and Victoria also demonstrate substantial increases in retail jobs. Research from New South Wales has revealed that 40,000 new jobs were generated in the retail industry there between 1986 and 1992. Contrary to the arguments of those members opposite, 20,000 of the new jobs created in the New South Wales deregulated market were in fact in the small non-food business sector. The experience has been similar in Victoria. Since late 1996, 30,000 additional jobs have been created in the retail sector in Victoria. That is a 10 per cent increase in jobs since deregulation.

There is also direct evidence that this growth does not come at a price to small traders. In fact, a 1997 study of Victorian very small retailers, that is, milk bars, small grocery stores, butchers and newsagents, found employment levels for the great majority remained unchanged and that deregulation did not lead to job losses. But just as importantly, the economic spin-offs for Queensland will be considerable. For every extra dollar spent through retail trading there is an estimated \$2.24 generated within the broader economy. Since expanded core trading hours were introduced in Queensland in 1994, total retail turnover alone for large retailers increased by more than 50 per cent. This bill means that Sunday trading will now put money in the pockets of workers and businesses right across south-east Queensland, not just in Brisbane.

This bill allows trading hours on Sunday to include the city of Ipswich. Ipswich is a great regional city with thousands and thousands of shiftworkers who want extended trading hours. They want to be able to shop in their city and not be forced to shop in Brisbane in centres such as Mount Ommaney, Indooroopilly and Mount Gravatt.

**Mr Cummins:** Keep the money in Ipswich.

**Mrs MILLER:** That is right, keep the money in Ipswich. I am advised by Ipswich City Council that, under the Ipswich economy model, residents purchase some \$252 million in goods and services outside the Ipswich economy. This economic leakage represents 19 per cent or one-fifth of total consumer spending. Can members just imagine what would have happened to my city's economy if extended trading hours did not include Ipswich? I can tell them that in the eastern part of my electorate the Mount Ommaney shopping centre is eight minutes down the Ipswich Motorway and the Centenary Highway. It is indeed that close.

**Mr Cummins:** Exporting jobs.

**Mrs MILLER:** That is right. Indooroopilly Shoppingtown is about 20 minutes drive from my electorate. Our shopping dollars would have been spent in Brisbane, thus causing an even higher economic leakage from Ipswich. This would have had a devastating effect on our local economy, Ipswich's own 'Indooroopilly'—Redbank Plaza—and other great destinations such as St Ives at Goodna, the Redbank Plains shopping centre, Kruger shopping centre, Springfield shopping centre, Bundamba shops and also Booval Fair, Ipswich City Square and other major shopping centres in Ipswich. Over many years Ipswich City Council and I have determined that it is vital to our Ipswich economy that such consumer spending outside our city be reduced. We are looking at ways of encouraging consumers to shop locally to reduce the leakage, and this bill will assist our people to shop locally on Sundays.

Whilst Ipswich recognises that it is a vital part of the south-east Queensland economy, we also want to be able to spend our hard-earned dollars locally and not be forced to drive out of our city to shop. Members should have no doubt at all that this is what would have happened. It would have been absolutely ridiculous. It would have been an inconvenience to the fine people of Ipswich to have to drive down the Ipswich Motorway to Brisbane, and it would have been an inconvenience to many of our families. Ipswich is combating the issue of consumers shopping externally when they are travelling to and from their places of work. More flexible trading hours may enable these consumers to shop locally in our city. Our city needs to be on a level playing field to compete with businesses in Brisbane and in other areas. We are not a city that sits on its hands. We get up and we have a go. We are bringing tourism dollars into the city with the Global Arts Link, with the Ipswich Festival and with our great art and cultural exhibitions, including the *Two Emperors: China's Ancient Origins*, starting mid-year.

We are a city that grabs every opportunity for job creation, and we welcome the new retail jobs that will come to our city as a result of this bill. The Synergy Industrial Park, the Bremer Business Park, the Riverlink development, the expansion of AMH at Dinmore and the aerospace industry, amongst others, will create jobs—thousands of jobs. We welcome every single job in our city because for every job that is created there is a significant multiplier effect in our local economy as well as the added benefits of individual self-esteem, confidence for our workers and a future for them and their families. This bill will create retail jobs in Ipswich, and I know of many people in my electorate who are already seeking work in the retail sector with the specific aim of working the extended trading hours.

The mayor of Ipswich, John Nugent, and the Deputy Mayor, Paul Pisasale, and other councillors have shown their strong support for this bill, for they see the benefits of extended trading hours for our people and for our economy. When the Beattie Labor government and our council work together for the benefit of Ipswich council we have a great future and we all prosper, both in the creation of new jobs and economic spin-offs for the Ipswich economy and the Queensland economy.

This is a government that moves with the times. This is a government that listens to the people, and the people want extended trading hours. This is a government that is delivering jobs, jobs, jobs—and there are going to be more jobs, jobs, jobs as a result of this bill. I congratulate the minister for his hard work on this bill and for listening to the people of Ipswich by including our great city in this extended trading hours zone. I commend the bill to the House.

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