



Speech By  
**Hon. Curtis Pitt**


**MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2016

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Retail Trading Hours

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (2.11 pm): Today I announce another positive initiative of the Palaszczuk government with the potential to deliver considerable economic benefits and new jobs across Queensland. For too long retail trading hours in Queensland have been complex, confusing and costly. Trading hours can differ between regions and even within the same region. The Queensland Industrial Relations Commission has delivered more than 30 seven-day trade areas across the state. In addition to the QIRC, the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 distinguishes between types of shops and the hours they can trade based on the nature of the goods sold and the number of staff employed.

At present, trading hours are based on whether an establishment is an exempt shop with unrestricted hours, an independent retail shop with generally unrestricted trading hours depending on staff numbers or a non-exempt shop, usually large retailers or department stores. To illustrate the complexity of the existing system, there is a list of trading hour categories currently applicable across our state. Most local members would be aware of the difficulties and unfairness the current system can deliver. For example, the Piccone family, who own several businesses, including two IGA supermarkets in the Cairns area, have one supermarket that is classified as an independent retail shop and can trade from 5 am to midnight, seven days a week; the other supermarket is within the Cairns tourist area and is classified as a non-exempt shop and trades from 8 am to 9 pm Monday to Friday, 8.30 am to 5.30 pm Saturdays and 9 am to 6 pm on Sundays—same owners, same type of store, same type of customer catchment areas, but vastly different trading hours.

In 2013 the Queensland Competition Authority published its report *Measuring and reducing the burden of regulation*. It found the potential for large net benefits from reform of trading hours restrictions of approximately \$200 million. For consumers, reforms could mean greater choice and convenience and the benefits of greater competition. For business operators it could mean greater flexibility in meeting consumer demands and the opportunity for increased sales with a potential flow-on to more jobs. Our tourist industry stands to benefit from a streamlining of trading hours. Tourism is a truly regionalised industry across our state so there are clear potential benefits, including new jobs in our regional economies.

We want to ensure our retail sector can secure more scale and economic benefits which also means new jobs in the sector. Today Minister Grace and I announced plans to establish a stakeholder reference panel to consider how Queensland could maximise those economic benefits by addressing anomalies in our state's trading hours. The reference panel will be chaired by former Speaker and minister John Mickel. Key retail, business and industry, tourism and union representatives will be invited to join the reference panel. It is proposed the panel will complete its work so that any changes to trading hours may be in place by Easter next year. Our economic plan is helping Queensland transition to a

postmining boom economy. This latest initiative will do that by realising new economic opportunities and new jobs. The government is determined to bring in reforms to our economy that support growth, job creation and build on the results achieved so far. This government is committed to streamlining regulation. This government is committed to cutting red tape for businesses. This government is committed to modernising our economy and creating jobs by ensuring Queensland is open for business.

*Tabled paper.* Document, undated, titled 'Ministerial Trading Hours—Non-Exempt Shops Trading by Retail—State' [[1408](#)].