




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Retail Sector

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.01 am): The Palaszczuk government understands that the needs of business are constantly changing and how important the private sector is to job creation. We will always work with business, industry and unions to promote economic development and jobs.

As one of the state's major employers, the retail sector is crucial for generating jobs. That is why we have announced a review of the state's retail trading hours. We want to see more jobs in this sector. We are establishing a reference group to consider how Queensland could maximise an estimated \$200 million annual economic benefit from addressing anomalies in the state's retail trading hours. The reference group will be chaired by QUT's School of Justice, Associate Professor and former Speaker of this House, John Mickel, and report back with recommendations in time for the proposed new Easter Sunday public holiday in 2017.

All major stakeholders will be represented on this reference group: the National Retail Association, CCIQ, the Master Grocers Australia, the Queensland Tourism Industry Council, the SDA, the AWU, United Voice and the Queensland Council of Unions. I am pleased to note that Queensland's peak industry body, the CCIQ, supports the review. CCIQ Director of Advocacy, Nick Behrens, said—

CCIQ believes carefully targeted reform can help ease the compliance burden and reduce regulatory inconsistencies, ensuring Queensland's shop trading hours framework continues to support the growth of our state's small business community.

We acknowledge the state government is genuine in its commitment to review the Act, with a view to enabling small business to compete and grow.

The CEO of the National Retail Association, Dominique Lamb, also believes that retail trading hours need to be simplified, saying in a statement released yesterday—

The NRA looks forward to consulting with the government and the Minister on this matter, with the hope of reforming retail trade in Queensland, and giving retailers greater flexibility to better service their customers.

The SDA, representing the majority of Queensland's retail trade workers, also supports the review. All stakeholders acknowledge that the current legislation governing trading hours needs modernisation to meet current community expectations and economic realities. I want to stress that modernisation will not be achieved by favouring major supermarket chains at the expense of small and medium sized retailers. This review will be one that delivers a fair and balanced result for everyone concerned, making sure that those interests are well served for the public who trade with these retailers.