




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2017

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Retail Trading Hours, Review

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (2.20 pm): Creating jobs is the No. 1 priority of the Palaszczuk government. As the Premier has said, for 20 years governments in Queensland have refused to act to reform trading hours, but this government will deliver reform. We have endorsed the most significant changes to Queensland's retail trading hours in more than two decades. The proposed changes have the potential to increase gross state domestic product by \$79 million and create nearly 1,000 jobs. Shop trading hour laws will now be amended to implement consistency driven by 13 recommendations of an independent reference group chaired by QUT School of Justice Associate Professor and former Speaker of the Queensland Legislative Assembly, John Mickel. The review considered the views of all stakeholders—consumers, workers and business owners. This is a balanced outcome for Queensland on what is a very complex issue made up of a patchwork of overregulation of trading hours that no longer suit our modern lifestyles. For example, under the current arrangements, some butchers cannot open on Sunday when a lot of people enjoy a barbecue. That just does not pass the common-sense test.

The Palaszczuk government has listened and will deliver a meaningful reform package which includes Sunday and public holiday trading which will be standardised across Queensland, with Easter Sunday to be an open trading day; regional towns that currently do not have Sunday trading will continue to be able to opt in through an application to the QIRC; and special tourist areas such as Port Douglas will have access to extended trading hours that meet the needs of domestic and international visitors. Other reforms include the fact that there will be provision for special trading hour applications to be made for extended trading around international events such as the Commonwealth Games; trading hours restrictions will be removed for butcher shops, special exhibitions and trade shows; all hardware stores can open on Sunday from 6 am; and the people of Queensland will be able to buy cars and caravans on Sunday. Let us not forget tourism. With double-digit growth in Queensland's tourism sector, these new trading hours will complement and support the growth in this important sector and we all know that that means jobs and more jobs for Queenslanders, especially in the regions.

There will be a huge reduction in red tape for businesses. A massive 99 trading hour provisions contained in over 40 pages of orders will be replaced by just six. The Mickel report also recommends a moratorium of five years be imposed on applications for the further relaxation of trading hours, with a full review to be undertaken at the end of that period. Importantly, no-one will be made to work any of the additional hours allowed by the changes unless they have voluntarily agreed to do so. More jobs, more choice and less red tape: that is what these reforms and the Palaszczuk government will deliver. The Mickel report is now publicly available online and I table the report for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Office of Industrial Relations: *A review of Queensland's Trading Hours (Allowable Hours) Act 1990*, December 2016 [177].