




Speech By
Julianne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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TRADING (ALLOWABLE HOURS) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.02 pm): I rise to contribute to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017 because it is a common-sense bill that will assist many retail businesses in my region.

Mr Costigan interjected.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Order! First of all, the member for Mackay is not taking interjections. If the minister and the member for Whitsunday would like to have a conversation, could you please take it outside.

Mrs GILBERT: The retail industry across Queensland employs over 255,000 local Queenslanders, equating to 11 per cent of employment in Queensland. Queenslanders clock up \$76 billion in sales annually, generating \$9.9 billion in wages. I would like to see our retail industry be able to expand by reducing red tape and confusion that exists in the current legislation. Independent studies have projected that relaxation of trading hours could have an economic benefit of between \$200 million and \$253 million.

Businesses are always calling for a reduction in red tape to save on outlays and to simplify their ability to trade. This amendment bill will see a massive 90 specific trading hours provisions contained in over 40 pages of orders from the QIRC be replaced by just seven specific trading hours provisions. This bill simplifies and sets out clearly trading hours for public holidays and has provisions for special events. There are provisions for special trading hours applications to be made for extended trading around international events such as the Commonwealth Games to be held next year on the Gold Coast.

In my electorate there are many workers on seven-on, seven-off and 12-hour rosters. The changes to opening hours on Sundays and most public holidays allowing them to trade from 6 am Monday to Sunday will be welcomed. These changes will allow tradespeople to get their supplies to get jobs completed when they need to and to give the home handymen on shiftwork a chance to stock up. Restrictions for butcher shops, special exhibitions and trade shows have also been removed.

My electorate of Mackay is building up its tourism industry. We are on the doorstep of the Whitsundays. This bill, with the support of the National Retail Association and the Queensland Tourism Industry Council, will help to support local jobs emerging in this industry.

It is interesting to note, coming from a regional centre, that an independent survey showed that over 50 per cent of respondents coming from outside of the south-east corner agree or strongly agree that large retail shops should be the same for both Saturdays and Sundays. Where there are concerns from some regional centres, it has been decided that extended hours will not be extended to those centres that do not currently have Sunday and public holiday trading. Instead, those towns will be able to opt in to Sunday and public holiday trading with an application to the Queensland Industrial Relations

Commission. Applications to opt in to Sunday and public holiday trading can be made by local councils and also organisations like the National Retail Association and the Queensland Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The ability for small centres to opt in and out will allow them to consider the social implications that extended trading hours would have on their community. Longer hours may impact on local sport and cultural events.

The committee reported on the opposition of the car and caravan industry to extended Sunday trading. I had contact with Scott Gralow from Mackay Motorcycles, Marianne Camilleri from Jayco Mackay and also Georgia Thomson of Autocorner, a large car dealership. They informed me that there was no evidence of customer demand for extended trading hours. They believed that they would not sell any additional vehicles with longer trading hours, resulting in higher costs for businesses by working longer hours for the same monetary reward with their current hours. The minister has listened to their concerns. The trading hours for car and caravan operators will remain unchanged. There will be no Sunday trading. I would like to thank my constituents for their representation of their industry.

Other businesses that will not see any change are the exempt stores that currently do not have trading hour restrictions. These retailers include chemists, takeaway food shops, service stations, marine shops, sporting goods and pet stores.

Independent retailers will be able to employ more staff—with an increase from 20 to 30 in any one store or, if they have more than one store, from 60 to 100—without losing their right to the fewer restrictions they have over the larger chains. They will have the opportunity to expand their operations and better serve their customers' needs. They will have a greater ability to compete with large business on the non-exempt list that have more restrictions. Stores on this list include Woolworths, Coles, Aldi, Myer, David Jones, Kmart and Target—all with trading restrictions. This bill makes sensible changes to trading hours, cuts red tape and allows businesses flexibility. I commend the bill to the House.