




Speech By  
**Nikki Boyd**

**MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS**

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### **TRADING (ALLOWABLE HOURS) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (4.44 pm): I rise to make a short contribution on the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill. In doing so, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the committee and the minister in bringing the bill to this point. It is a testament to the minister and her ability to work flexibly and negotiate with all stakeholders to get legislation through this House. It is really interesting, because this is the third time that this bill has come before the House. To my mind, the LNP seems to have three main arguments against the bill. Their first concern is one that I think is a little amusing, in that it is the cutting of red tape. Those opposite have always held themselves up to be the bastions of small business and the bastions of cutting red tape. Even now, we have seen policies released by the LNP that promise red-tape reduction, yet when we are here—

**Mr Pegg** interjected.

**Ms BOYD:** Absolutely. I take the interjection from the member for Stretton. They do not deliver; that is correct. We could see significant changes to modernise and simplify trading hours right across the state. We could also ensure a sensible, balanced and modest extension to trading hours. However, those opposite are saying to us, 'No, we do not want that red tape cut. We want that red tape to stay there.' While they argue to have all of the red tape remain in place, they do not provide any evidence to support their arguments. Certainly in the statements of reservation that were made to the bill, no evidence at all was provided. John Mickel's review considered the impact on small business and employment and found that there was little evidence that the restriction of trading hours would have a material impact on the overall viability of small retail businesses, yet we are still hearing them argue that a reduction in red tape through simplification and modification is a bad thing.

I, for one, think it is quite a good thing. I think we should have systems that are less confusing. I think we should have consistency of hours across different jurisdictions. I would like to be able to visit my in-laws in Bundaberg without having to figure out the trading hours, which are entirely different to what I am used to. In Australia, other states have quite long trading hours compared to what we have in Queensland. In Victoria, you can find yourself shopping quite late into the evening, which is not something that we have here. These proposed changes do not go as far as we see in a lot of other jurisdictions across Australia.

It is also amusing that this is yet another vehicle for the LNP to come into this place and have a good old union bash. They see it as an opportunity to come in here and talk down the good work that organised labour has achieved in this country, which they say is somehow a bad thing. I like the concept that business will be operating for longer and that that will provide secure employment for which I believe people should be paid penalty rates. I think that is a good thing. I do not think that is negative at all.

The final argument of the trifecta, which I think is the most amusing, is their issue with us not having done enough consultation. Time and time again in this place we are told that we are 'reviewing, not doing', yet with this bill apparently there is not enough consultation. There has been a review;

shouldn't we just do? They say, 'No, there's not been enough consultation, so we have to go back.' The LNP is not happy with what we are doing here, so we cannot move and we cannot act. We have to go back again. They have issues with there not being enough consultation.

To my mind, they seem to be the three main points that are being made by the LNP around this legislation. I am the kind of local member who likes to consult with my community. I was very excited to see an email come through to my electorate office in May that came about as a result of an IGA meeting. It was a bit of a rushed email that asked me to meet with some local IGA owners to discuss their concerns around this bill. I set down a meeting time and put it in my diary. I was ready to meet with these local business owners, but they did not show up on the day.

**Mr Williams:** We all had that.

**Ms BOYD:** I take the interjection from the member for Pumicestone. 'We all had that,' he said. I took the opportunity whilst this bill was before the House to consult with a few of my colleagues. I asked around and found a handful of MPs on this side of the House who had meetings booked and that people did not show up to or meetings that were cancelled. If there is a big drive for consultation and a large amount of concern in the community that they want heard, then it is quite disappointing to find that that opportunity was not taken up whilst being entered into with a huge amount of goodwill by those on this side of the House.

I want to give a shout-out to the Norris Motor Group in my electorate and general manager Patrick Casey. Patrick was a small business owner whom I met with while this bill was going through the committee process. The Norris Motor Group have been undertaking a huge renovation at their Brendale facility.

I met with Patrick Casey, the general manager. In March operations were underway to have a permanent building constructed to house approximately 50 staff. The showrooms have now been constructed. This is very exciting for my local community. What is more exciting is that they are looking to take on school based apprentices and more tradies on that site. That construction has been completed and the next stage of construction has commenced. That is extraordinarily exciting for our community. I thank the Motor Trades Association for their consultation with local MPs. It has been great to hear from them. It has been great to have that level of consultation with them.

I have a large number of independent retailers in my community. We do not just have Coles, Woolworths and Aldi. We have Costco up the road. I have to say that I have not ventured in and bought a membership. I think that is a little dangerous for somebody who likes to shop to the extent that I do. We have a lot of small independent retailers in my community. I thank them for the contribution they make within my community.

I assure these independent retailers that the evidence from other jurisdictions is that small businesses continue to thrive when trading hours are relaxed or totally deregulated. There are consistently high small business participation rates of 90 per cent in both regulated and deregulated states. I assure them that this has been done before and the sky is not going to fall down around them.

The LNP has serious concerns around the cutting of red tape and there not being enough consultation. They have used this as an avenue to continue to union bash. I commend the minister for the work that she has done. I wholeheartedly support the passage of her amendments through the House.