




Speech By
Barry O'Rourke

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2022

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (3.10 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Education, Employment and Training Committee's report No. 15 of the 57th Parliament. As a member of the Education, Employment and Training Committee we reviewed the trading hours across the state. We received 28 submissions from retail and business peak bodies, unions and retailers. We held hearings across the state, in Brisbane, Cairns, Mossman, Mount Isa and Townsville, with 47 witnesses giving evidence at seven public hearings. The committee understands that different locations have very different requirements and it was good to listen to people from the different areas around the state. There were also public briefings by the Department of Education, Office of Industrial Relations.

From the information that was provided through the consultation process we made nine recommendations and, in part, the committee recommended that the act be amended to refine the process for consideration of special events applications by the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. It also recommended where there is a special event approved by the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission, that the commission has the power to make an order supporting staff voluntary work requirements; and the categories of non-exempt shops core trading hours be reduced to four categories, the South-East Queensland area was unchanged, the tourism area amended to include Mossman and Port Douglas tourist areas; regional areas; and other areas. There was strong support from submitters for no changes to trading hours for hardware stores and those selling motor vehicles or caravans. There were also no changes to the definition of an independent retail shop. We recommended the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 be extended for an additional 12 months to 31 August 2023 and we also recommended that Mossman and Port Douglas be included in the tourism area.

In 2021 across Queensland there were approximately 266,000 retail employees, approximately 10 per cent of total employment in the state. The retail industry is the second largest employer after health and we need to ensure that we balance the needs of retailers and that of their employees, and I believe this report addresses that. I thank my fellow committee members and the secretariat, in particular our chair, the member for Redlands. I commend the report to the House.