

The Chair Trading Hours Review Reference Group
C/- Office of Industrial Relations
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To: The Chair, Trading Hours Review Reference Group

An individual submission regarding Queensland trading hours

This submission represents my views as an individual consumer and informed citizen in regards to trading hours practice and policy in place in Queensland. I offer my views as a potential case for change, specifically in relation to a more liberalised basis for trading hours which should be able to be set at the sole discretion of business owners, which will require less cumbersome trading hours regulation, and more open and free-flowing modes of trade and exchange. I feel this is particularly important when considered in the context of an ever-increasing globalised economy and online trading market. All views expressed are my own.

When it comes to the matter of trading hours practice and policy in Queensland, I personally feel that a truly free and liberal market economy is one in which all available commodities, products, goods and services are conveniently and constantly available on an around-the-clock basis, providing that the price is right and the demand is sufficient.

In a modern, industrialised economy, we as a society should allow for a more free-flow trade of goods and services without the burden of regulation on businesses in regards to setting their own trading hours. The current practice is not good for business and it is not good for the consumer. As a consumer, I am strongly of the opinion that if I have money that I am willing to offer for a product or service, then it is a disservice to that business if I am not allowed to make a purchase at a certain time due to government regulation. All producers of goods and services for the consumer's sake should be available and accessible when I am willing to give them my money for their goods or service. This makes good business sense, and the decision should be made at the sole discretion of the business owner, if necessary, relevant stakeholders.

It is my absolute view that extending trading hours and reducing regulation will be a boon for the Queensland economy and will mean mutual benefits for business owners and consumers. It will result in more jobs, and a more vibrant night life and quality of life.

Allowing businesses to set their own trading hours will allow for greater competition, innovation, ingenuity and creativity and will benefit all of Queensland over the short and long term.

The world has changed a lot since 1990, when the legislation was introduced, and it makes sense to revise the legislation to keep pace with the times. However, as government cannot always keep up with the fast-paced nature of a liberal economy it is my view that they should remain out of the business of regulating trading hours.

Summarily, it is my view that the current restrictions on trading hours should be relaxed!

Kind regards,
Samuel Glen