



## Submission re Review of Allowable Trading Hours 10 Nov 2016

The Douglas Chamber of Commerce, representing Port Douglas, Mossman and Daintree businesses, surveyed its membership via an email survey stream, and the general public via an email newspaper called Newport Daily

To date we have received 80 responses from our Survey, the actual results can be viewed by clicking on this link <http://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-PJGG96PX>

After much discussion with our membership over the years and regular feedback regarding Trading Hour restrictions, it was found the majority of businesses (77.03%) believe that there is a need for a review and simplification of the existing Act.

The Douglas Shire has unique needs, because it is a tourist precinct, including catering for Cruise Ship arrivals on Public Holidays, and peak tourist times over Easter & Christmas. To that end 70.67% of respondents said they were unhappy with the current Public Holiday restrictions. Feedback from many discussions over the years have shown two main concerns....requiring lifting of the restricted hours and/or widening the 'exempt ' category to include general retail. This would enable businesses to cater more effectively for the needs of their customers.

When the question of 24/7 Allowable Trading hours was posed, 72.37% agreed, providing it was Allowable Trading Hours, and not Compulsory Trading hours. The general feeling was that each business owner should be able to operate the hours that work for their business and customer base, and 76% responded with a 'No' when asked if unrestricted Allowable Trading Hours would adversely affect their business.

In summary, our members support a review of Allowable Trading Hours, enabling Actual opening hours to be determined by the needs of the business and Applied by the business owner.

For and on behalf of the Committee.

Douglas Chamber of Commerce

Janette Walker  
Committee Member