

MEDIA STATEMENT

The voice of reason in the retail trading debate

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The Committee for Perth welcomed findings from the latest FACTBase research project into the current retail trading hours debate.

The research undertaken by Dr Veronica Huddleston and Dr Paul Huddleston, both Associate Professors in Human Geography at the University of Western Australia, reviewed the various arguments for and against retail deregulation as well as the other complexities involved in policy decisions for the Committee for Perth.

Marion Fulker Chief Executive Officer for the Committee for Perth said the research findings were particularly timely given the current proposed changes to the retail trading legislation.

“The Committee for Perth is a long standing advocate for a liberalised retail trading environment across the entire Perth metropolitan area and we welcome that the Western Australia Parliament has re-entered sensible debate to amend the current legislation in order to additional flexibility to the current trading regime which benefit some and restrict others.”

“Perth seeks to be one of the most vibrant and liveable cities in the world and the deregulation of retail trading hours is fundamental to achieving this goal by creating a dynamic social atmosphere and lively urban environment. Perth has struggled for a number of years now with the ‘Dullsville’ tag and this would go a long way to improving the city’s attractiveness.”

“While the current proposed legislative changes are a good step, the Committee for Perth wants a liberalised regime across the full spectrum of retail businesses so that shoppers across Perth can benefit rather than the piece meal and unfair approach which has been adopted so far.” She said.

Ms Fulker said the findings in the report are encouraging as they indicate that there is little evidence from other deregulated jurisdictions to suggest any strength in the arguments against extended retail trading.

In fact the research demonstrates the social fabric remains in place with working families given greater flexibility about when and where they shop.

“At the end of the day, it comes down to what sort of city to we want Perth to be. One that is restrictive or one that is adaptable to changing needs and the deregulation of retail trading hours will provide the community with greater flexibility and choice.” Marion Fulker said.

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Attached: FACTBase Bulletins No. 7 & 8.

About FACTBase

The FACTBase project is a joint venture between well respected research institution the University of Western Australia and the Committee for Perth, an influential member-based organisation driven by a diverse assembly of Perth's leaders with a long term view of Perth's future.

One of the only broad-reaching projects of its kind to be undertaken in the southern hemisphere FACTBase condenses the plethora of databases and studies on the subject of liveability and analyse what's happening in Perth through words, maps and graphs.

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