

February 21, 2012

Retail trading – total deregulation must come now

The Committee for Perth's CEO Marion Fulker supports the bi-partisan approach to resolving the deregulation of retail trading hours for the Perth metropolitan area. However she has called on the Premier, Colin Barnett to introduce full deregulation of retail trading hours across Perth now to end the confusion about shopping hours and what's available for purchase.

"While we think the Premier's changes to legislation that will allow Sunday trading from 11am to 5pm across Perth is a positive step in the right direction, the Committee for Perth believes total deregulation is crucial to enhancing the liveability of metropolitan Perth and making more appealing tourist destinations," said Mrs Fulker.

"The Committee has been a strong supporter of the complete deregulation of trading hours across the complete retail sector in the metropolitan area and that includes unrestricted Sunday trading. It makes no sense that where you live determines your ability to shop because of the inconsistencies to trading hours and product availability, it's just nonsense.

"We believe that restricted or limited trading hours on Sunday has created confusion and frustration within the community and will continue to do so under the proposed changes. That's why we continue to strongly support the case of complete deregulation."

Many of the arguments against deregulation are unsubstantiated. The Committee for Perth has published two FACTBase bulletins on the issue of the regulation of retail trading hours and is of the view that there is substantially more to gain for the community than to lose in a full deregulated environment.

"The deregulation of retail trading hours is one of the things that newcomers are so critical of when they arrive in Perth. One major city-based employer a few years ago asked their staff to indicate their support or not for full deregulation. 95% of the 600+ respondents supported it and I can't imagine those strong levels of support have waned. With people working longer and more dynamic hours, retailers need to be in a position to respond to the changing needs across the community," added Mrs Fulker.

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