

tradinghours - Reform of General Shop Trading Hours

From: "Scott Driscoll" <scott@qrtsa.com.au>
To: <tradinghours@dpc.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 24/09/2007 4:24 PM
Subject: Reform of General Shop Trading Hours

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm writing to you on behalf of the **Retail Traders & Shopkeepers Association - NSW**.

Though we were only recently made aware of the investigation into the potential complete deregulation of trading hours for "general shops" in NSW and as a result are not in a position to complete a full and complete submission on our position regarding such changes, we would wish to express our strong concerns with regard to such a move in brief anyway.

Such a move would further allow large retail chains such as Coles and Woolworths to trade unrestricted, providing even greater burdens on independent retailers to maintain a competitive position in the market.

This lack of adequate competition and distribution of marketshare as it stands even now, sees Australia experiencing the highest rate of inflation with regard to supermarket pricing in the entire OECD. Further deregulation will most certainly add to such statistics and the ultimate loser is the general consumer, with resultant higher supermarket prices, after more and more independent retailers are forced out of the market.

In Australia, recent published studies show 80% of the supermarket spend is concentrated between Coles and Woolworths. In the UK, five major retailers share around 40% of the marketshare and the UK consumers and media is expressing concerns that marketshare is producing a lack of competition and a lack of downward pressure on prices. Hence, as is clearly illustrated, further moves in Australia to benefit the major retailers, as your proposition would directly achieve, is far from being in the interests of consumers and the greater community.

We are firmly opposed to such moves as proposed and would request to be directly involved in any further considerations prior to any legislative change.

Yours faithfully,

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