



28.9.07  
B/CO

20 September 2007

Ms Lynne Ashpole  
Director  
Better Regulation Office  
GPO Box 5341  
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Ms Ashpole *Lynne*

#### Reform of Shop Trading Hours in NSW

The Property Council of Australia strongly supports the reform of shop trading hours in NSW. We endorse the submission and recommendations made by the Shopping Centre Council of Australia.

It is anomalous that Australia's premier, and only global, city has more restrictive trading hours than Darwin, Canberra, Hobart, Brisbane or Melbourne. NSW once led Australia in the liberalisation of trading hours, having been the first state to introduce Saturday afternoon trading and the first to permit Sunday trading, albeit through a system of exemptions. We now lag behind Victoria, Tasmania and the two territories.

Sunday trading is still officially prohibited in NSW and only exists by virtue of widespread exemptions from the prohibition, while trading is prohibited on more public holidays than any other state and territory, with the exception of the highly regulated states of South Australia and Western Australia.

The present system of regulation is complex, confusing and costly. That cost is not only borne by retailers and retail landlords. There is an ongoing and unnecessary administrative and enforcement cost to the NSW taxpayers. Those resources could be better spent in more productive areas of the government administration.

We believe that all restrictions on trading hours should be removed as is the case in the ACT and the Northern Territory. This would be popular with consumers, retailers and shopping centres and reduce administrative costs for both the retail industry and the Government. Alternatively the Government could adopt similar legislation to Tasmania and remove trading hours restrictions on all but Christmas Day, Good Friday and the morning of Anzac Day.

The Property Council strongly believes there is no contemporary justification for governments setting out when and where people can shop. Adopting the recommendations we have outlined above would be a highly visible demonstration that NSW is truly 'open for business'.

Yours sincerely

Ken Morrison  
NSW Executive Director

# The Voice of Leadership

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