



MINISTER FOR PORTS AND WATERWAYS
MINISTER FOR REGULATORY REFORM MINISTER FOR SMALL BUSINESS

M E D I A R E L E A S E

Trading Reforms Open Doors for Business

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All NSW retailers will be free to open their doors on Sundays and most public holidays under proposed changes to shop trading laws, Regulatory Reform Minister Joe Tripodi said.

“Most of the public won’t know current laws require retailers to seek exemptions from the State Government to trade on Sundays and public holidays,” Mr Tripodi said.

“It’s not clear who needs exemptions and when. Those requiring exemptions face the onerous task of completing paperwork just to operate within the law.

“The Shop Trading Hours Bill 2008 gives retailers certainty around trading hours and eliminates red tape for their businesses.”

The new law will allow all retailers to open on Sundays. It will also allow retailers to trade on public holidays, with the exception of Good Friday, Easter Sunday, the morning of ANZAC Day, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Any business wishing to trade on one or more of these prohibited days can apply to the Director General of Industrial Relations for an exemption through a single streamlined process. All existing exemptions will remain valid.

Mr Tripodi said the objective of the new Bill is to update retail trading legislation to reflect common practice in the sector.

“The current Shops and Industries Act needs a revamp. Holiday trading is popular and many families do their shopping on Sundays,” Mr Tripodi said.

“While we are keen to cut red-tape we will also preserve the work-lifestyle balance for families”.

Mr Tripodi said the retail sector contributes six per cent of Australia’s economic output and provides 15 per cent of jobs.

“The proposed amendments will iron out the creases in the current law, recognise the importance of this sector to the economy and underscore the Government’s commitment to removing red tape.”

The Shop Trading Hours Bill 2008 is the culmination of the Better Regulation Office’s first targeted red tape review.

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