



Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations

19 SEP 2018

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

I refer to Petition 2983-18 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 21 August 2018 which requests to 'Permit Woolworths Mission Beach to open on Sundays and Public Holidays'. I understand the petition has been prompted by the closure in late 2017 of the Mission Beach Supermarket which was an independent retail shop.

Mission Beach is one of a number of regional areas in which non-exempt (large) retail shops, such as Woolworths, are not permitted to trade on Sundays and public holidays (except for Easter Saturday). Those arrangements have been in place for many years. In 2010, the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) did not support an application to grant Sunday and public holiday trade in Mission Beach.

In August 2017, the *Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990* (the Act) was amended following an independent review of the State's trading hours arrangements. The review found that there was a case to simplify shop trading hours across the State and also to provide certainty in those trading hours' arrangements. To that end the Act provides for a moratorium period of five years from 31 August 2017 on further changes to retail trading hours, other than for declared special events.

The Queensland Government has no plans to make further changes to the Act at this time. Given the moratorium provisions in the Act, this means that the current arrangements which do not allow Sunday and public holiday trade in Mission Beach would remain in force with no avenue to make changes until 2022. At that time the Act will be reviewed and the question of Sunday and public holiday trade in regional areas of Queensland will again be considered.

If you require any further information or assistance, please contact Mr Tony James, Executive Director, Industrial Relations, on (07) 3406 9873.

Pursuant to Standing Order 32, it would be appreciated if you could table this response to the petition on the next sitting day.

I would like to thank your petitioners for raising this matter and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

GRACE GRACE MP
Minister for Education and
Minister for Industrial Relations