

RETAIL TRADING HOURS

1508. Hon WILSON TUCKER to the Minister for Commerce:

I refer to the current practice of ministers for commerce to issue variation orders each year to extend retail trading over the Christmas holiday period. As the routine extension of retail trading hours is a clear acknowledgement that both shoppers and retailers want more choice about when shops are open, will the minister consider modernising the state's retail trading hours to do away with these antiquated restrictions? I note that there is already a bill on the notice paper in my name that would achieve such a result.

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the member for his kind offer. I thank the member for some notice of the question. During the last 2021 state election, the Labor government made an election commitment to not make any changes to current Perth metropolitan retail trading hours. Notwithstanding that commitment, under the Retail Trading Hours Act 1987, general retail shops in the Perth metropolitan area are able to trade from 8.00 am to 9.00 pm on Mondays to Fridays, from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm on Saturdays, and from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm on Sundays and public holidays. Small retail shops and filling stations are able to trade 24 hours on any day of the year, and special retail shops are able to trade between 6.00 am and 11.30 pm daily. Many small and special retail shops within the Perth metropolitan area take advantage of these hours to meet the needs of both local consumers and visitors to the city.