



ATTORNEY GENERAL; MINISTER FOR COMMERCE

Our Ref: 44-12321

Mr Ken Diehm
Chief Executive Officer
City of Greater Geraldton
PO Box 101
GERALDTON WA 6530

Dear Mr Diehm

REGIONAL CHRISTMAS TRADING EXTENSIONS

The Hon. Michael Mischin MLC, Minister for Commerce, is currently considering options to extend retail trading hours in the Perth metropolitan area during the 2014 Christmas period.

As Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Commerce, I am endeavouring to identify ways in which the Minister may be able to offer a simplified package of trading hours for the Christmas period to regional areas.

The Minister recognises the need for consumers and traders to be able to maximise their opportunities at this important time of the year and, in the absence of more flexible trading arrangements, these opportunities may be lost if broader trading hours are not offered to regional areas.

The Minister is also mindful of the administrative burden placed on regional local governments that apply for extended trading under the existing policy and he is committed to reducing that burden where possible, by offering a simplified approach to this issue.

Accordingly, the Minister would like to extend to you the opportunity of adopting a standard package of trading hours for this year's Christmas trading period in your regional area. Subject only to your confirmation, acceptance of this proposal will not require further action on your part.

Should you accept the proposal, general retail shops within your locality will be able to trade from 8.00am to 9.00pm Monday to Friday, from 8.00am to 5.00pm on Saturdays and from 11.00am to 5.00pm on Sundays and Public Holidays, other than on Christmas Day, which will be a closed day.

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These trading hours will be available from Monday 1 December 2014 to Wednesday 31 December 2014, inclusive. As is the case with all extended trading variations, the decision to open or not during the additional hours will be entirely at the discretion of each individual retailer.

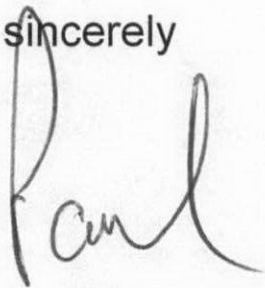
Metropolitan Perth's Christmas trading hours are likely to be considerably broader than the hours currently prescribed by legislation.

Local government authorities are requested to notify the Consumer Protection Division of the Department of Commerce (the Department), of their decision, by close of business on Friday 24 October 2014.

It is important to also mention that local governments that would prefer alternative trading hours over the Christmas period are of course free to apply to the Department under the existing policy arrangements.

To notify the Department of your decision or to discuss this advice in greater detail, please feel free to contact Mr Graeme Watts at the Automotive, Marine and Trading Hours Branch on (08) 6251 2453 or by email to graeme.watts@commerce.wa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul', written over the typed name 'Paul Miles MLA'.

Paul Miles MLA
**PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL; MINISTER FOR COMMERCE**

10 OCT 2014