

RETAIL TRADING HOURS AMENDMENT BILL 2012

Third Reading

HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan — Minister for Commerce) [2.29 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a third time.

HON KATE DOUST (South Metropolitan — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [2.29 pm]: I want to say only a couple of words because I know that the government is keen to get this bill through. Firstly, I put on the public record my thanks to Hon Nick Goiran for supporting the opposition in its efforts to amend the bill so that Easter Sunday is included as a restricted trading day for retail workers. It is an honourable thing that he did, particularly when he was being stared down by his minister in the chamber. It takes a bit of guts to stand up to that, so I want to thank him.

The other thing I say is that it has been quite interesting to note the absence of the National Party during this debate. It has had a lack of engagement, other than voting against our amendments. The National Party's voice has not been heard. In fact, it has been hypocritical in its position on this legislation, given that National Party members already enjoy the opportunity to have extended trading hours in their regions and have done so for many, many years. It is also interesting to note that the Nationals have deliberately gone against the agenda of their own coalition partner on this occasion.

I return to the comments made by Hon Giz Watson that perhaps members of the National Party need to come into this place more often and put their position on a range of legislation on the public record so we know where they stand.

With those very few words, we will be supporting the third reading of this bill.

HON COL HOLT (South West) [2.31 pm]: I find it pretty interesting that the National Party has been consistent in its approach to retail trading from the very outset. It is interesting to see how the Labor Party has changed its position continually throughout the debate. The Liberal Party obviously indicated that it supports deregulating retail trading hours. It needed a partner in Parliament to somehow get that legislation through. The first attempt to make some —

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm): Order! Members, please.

Hon COL HOLT: In the first attempt to make some sort of arrangement for the deregulation of retail trading hours, we were left with some arrangements that were not really satisfactory; in fact, they were quite confusing. When the opposition changed its leadership, obviously there was another approach to broker some sort of arrangement where the two parties could come together to bring about this legislation. I find it quite incredible that when they came to Parliament with some amendments to the legislation, they were unable to negotiate with the other party.

Point of Order

Hon KATE DOUST: This is not a third reading speech. Third reading speeches should draw attention to matters that may have been canvassed. The bill was not amended. Members of the National Party did not raise their voices in any way during the second reading debate. This member is now giving a speech that should have been given during the second reading debate. It is not a third reading speech. I call him to order.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I note the comments of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I am sure Hon Col Holt will draw his comments —

Debate Resumed

Hon COL HOLT: I am happy to leave my remarks there.

HON LYNN MacLAREN (South Metropolitan) [2.33 pm]: I wish to make a third reading speech and put on the record that the Greens (WA) oppose the Retail Trading Hours Amendment Bill 2012. We canvassed the issues earlier. I do not want to labour the point. I want to indicate that we are well aware of the Nationals' position in this debate. However, it is worthy to note that it has changed from when they went into the election. It is important to note that, like the Nationals, the Greens oppose this legislation. It is also worth noting that in the lead-up to the election, the Nationals did say in their "save our shops" policy that if the Nationals WA gain the balance of power in the Legislative Assembly at the next state election, the party will be in a position to determine which major party governs in Western Australia. We know that they have done that. They said that endorsement from the Nationals will be conditional upon a guarantee that shopping hours in Western Australia will not be deregulated and if the Nationals win the balance of power status in the Legislative Council, the party will use its voting leverage to block legislation that deregulates retail trading.

It is important that the record is complete. With those words, the Greens oppose the third reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.