

EXTENDED RETAIL TRADING HOURS

**796. Mr J.M. FRANCIS to the Premier:**

I refer the Premier to a message I received from a constituent this morning.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cockburn!

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** It reads —

Cannot believe this. 8 pm was the watered down version and they still rejected it?! What a pack of morons. I cannot believe the IGA the “Local Heroes” —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, members. It has taken us eight minutes to get to this point. If both sides of this place want to continue with a question time today that has some length attached to it, I suggest that both sides in this place be a little less rowdy. If you want question time to end relatively shortly, I can enable that very easily. Member for Jandakot, because I have barely been able to hear any of the question you have asked, once again, I will ask you to start from the beginning. I am going to suggest to other members in this place that they remain silent until the question is asked.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** I refer the Premier to a question I received from a constituent this morning that reads —

Cannot believe this. 8 pm was the watered down version and they still rejected it?! What a pack of morons. I cannot believe IGA the “Local Heroes” —

**The SPEAKER:** Member, now that I am able to hear, I am going to ask you to ask this question in a different way, because in this place it is not acceptable and is unparliamentary to attack people in a personal way by asking a question and making allegations, particularly when quoting from another document. Member, I will give you the opportunity to ask the question, but you will need to rephrase it.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was referring the Premier to a message that I received this morning from a constituent that expressed concern about the Labor opposition having rejected a weekday trading compromise of 8.00 pm. My question of the Premier is: is there any hope left at all for extended trading in Western Australia?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:**

I am aware of the quote that the member for Jandakot was reading from. It was from Trudy of Perth. She simply detailed her absolute dismay at the attitude of the Labor Party in rejecting any reasonable extension of weeknight trading.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I think most people in this place have a reasonably good memory. A short-term memory should be pretty special for most of you in here. I was on my feet only a couple of minutes ago referring to the length of time it has taken to get through this question time today. This is the second question. You can see the clock, and I know you can all read. I call the Leader of the Opposition and I call the member for Joondalup formally for the first time.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** Trudy of Perth, like probably two out of three consumers in Perth, has clearly given up any hope in the Labor Party. She is in absolute despair, because all Trudy and hundreds of thousands of other Perth consumers want to do is to be able to shop to 9.00 pm or even 8.00 pm, which is hardly a big deal. The member for Jandakot has provided a copy of the quote, and I will read the last part of it. Trudy writes —

I always defended Perth when people said it was a backwards hick town...guess I was wrong. We are a decade behind the rest of the country and I shudder to think how far behind the rest of the world.

Trudy reflects the point of view of working women, mothers, housewives, husbands and fathers who simply want to be able to choose for themselves when they go shopping, and the Labor Party will not allow it.

**Mr M.P. Murray** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Collie-Preston, I will give you an opportunity perhaps to ask a question later. I formally call you for the first time.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** Trudy and hundreds of thousands like her have given up on the Labor Party.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cockburn, I have given you a bit of leniency today, but no longer. I formally call you for the first time.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** I have a message for Trudy: do not give up on the Liberal Party. Following what I think was an appalling decision of the Labor Party yesterday, I met this morning with the minister responsible for the Retail Trading Hours Act, the Minister for Commerce. We discussed the situation. Following that meeting, I have written to him. I want to share with the house what I have said to him.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, members.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** They find it funny. I do not think that Trudy finds it funny. I think that the people of Perth might be interested in this.

**Mr B.S. Wyatt** interjected.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** The member for Victoria Park might be interested in a moment. As Premier I have formally written to the minister with responsibility for the retail trading legislation and requested that he investigate extending trading hours in Perth and Fremantle tourism precincts to 9.00 pm on weekdays. The current hours, 8.00 am to 5.00 pm and Sunday 11.00 am to 5.00 pm, would remain the same.

**Mr J.N. Hyde** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Perth, I know that we have talked about this before. I am going to formally call you for the first time. I suggest that if you have some genuine interest in the topic, you find a better way of expressing that.

**Mr J.N. Hyde** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Perth, I formally call you for the second time.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** The minister will now look at extending trading hours till 9.00 pm weekdays in the two already designated trading areas of Perth and Fremantle, leaving Saturday and Sunday trading as they are. I have asked him to investigate, with a view to implementing, those hours. Secondly, I have asked him to immediately process the application of the City of Joondalup for tourism status. That will mean weeknight trading till 9.00 pm in Joondalup, plus Saturday and Sunday trading in Joondalup. Thirdly, I have asked the minister to also consult with other subregional centres in Perth with a view to them becoming tourism precincts, which will allow for weeknight trading, Saturday trading and Sunday trading.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Joondalup.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** Finally, and some of the members for inner city electorates might like to listen, I asked him to widen the boundaries of the Perth tourism precinct to include adjacent inner city areas. This would include the remaining areas of the City of Perth, West Perth, North Perth, East Perth —

**Mr E.S. Ripper:** I think you should have written to the Leader of the National Party.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** I will repeat it, because I think the people of this state will want to actually know this. It is to widen the boundaries of the Perth tourism precinct to include adjacent inner city areas. This would include the remaining areas of the City of Perth, West Perth, North Perth, East Perth, Subiaco, Mt Lawley, South Perth and Victoria Park. These changes will bring to the people in inner city areas, and to Joondalup in the first instance, what they want—weeknight shopping—and, indeed, will now extend Sunday shopping to areas not previously anticipated in Perth. It was always my preference that we would have a progressive deregulation of trading hours, step by step, in as consistent a way as possible. The Labor Party, in its rejection of the compromise of 8.00 pm, has now dealt itself out of this issue, which will now be dealt with by the Minister for Commerce and me.