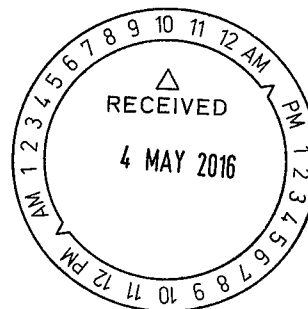




## ATTORNEY GENERAL; MINISTER FOR COMMERCE

Your Ref: Petition 110

Our Ref: 44-21498



Hon. Simon O'Brien MLC  
Chairman  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Chairman

### PETITION NO. 110 – DEREGULATION OF RETAIL TRADING HOURS

Thank you for your letter dated 23 March 2016 in which you seek comment regarding Petition No. 110 in which the petitioners have requested that the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs (the Committee) undertake a full public inquiry into the costs and benefits of proposed changes to trading hours and previous changes.

The Retail Trading Hours Amendment Bill 2015 (the Bill) was introduced into the Legislative Council on 19 November 2015 and proposes to extend trading hours for general retail shops in the metropolitan area to 7 am (currently 8 am) Monday to Saturday and to 6 pm (currently 5 pm) on Saturday. This change is consistent with the Government's policy of incremental change to trading hours and implements recommendations arising out of the recent statutory review of the *Retail Trading Hours Act 1987* (the Act). A copy of the statutory review report is at **Attachment A**.

It should be noted that the proposed amendments will simply permit general retail shops in the metropolitan area to open during these additional hours. There is no requirement for those shops to open and it is anticipated that retailers will only open where there is sufficient consumer demand to justify doing so. Those general shops catering to tradespersons and commuters are likely to take advantage of the extended morning hours.

In undertaking the statutory review, the Department of Commerce – Consumer Protection Division did not specifically undertake economic modelling of the potential impact of deregulation. Instead, the review considered a number of recent inquiries and reports which assess the potential costs and benefits of retail trading hours regulation and the impact that deregulation and extended trading hours may have on retailers, retail employees and the community.

A summary of these reports and their findings on the issues raised by the petitioners is at **Attachment B**.

.../2

Given the scope and number of recent inquiries conducted in relation to this issue, I am of the view that there would be little benefit in conducting an additional inquiry.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide the Committee with a response in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mischin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" that loops around the start of the name.

Hon. Michael Mischin MLC  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL; MINISTER FOR COMMERCE**  
- 3 MAY 2016

✓ *Att.*