



Dominic Perrottet
Treasurer of NSW
Minister for Industrial Relations

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW BOXING DAY TRADING LEGISLATION PASSES

NSW Parliament today passed legislation to permanently give retailers, employees and consumers the freedom to trade, work and shop on Boxing Day.

The legislation follows a two-year trial and a comprehensive review, conducted by Professor Percy Allan AM, which found clear support for unrestricted Boxing Day trade among consumers, retailers and employees.

The legislation also provides strict safeguards to protect workers, with retailers who force staff to work on December 26 facing fines of up to \$11,000 per employee.

Treasurer Dominic Perrottet said the reform was about providing retailers, retail employees and consumers with more choice.

“Prior to the trial, thousands of shops across NSW were required to close on Boxing Day while those in Sydney’s CBD were free to open,” Mr Perrottet said.

“If people want to trade, work or shop on Boxing Day, it makes sense that they can choose to do so irrespective of their location, keeping retail dollars in their local communities.”

NSW has now joined Victoria, Tasmania, the ACT, the Northern Territory and South East Queensland so that retailers in suburban and regional New South Wales can also trade on December 26 if they choose to.

Mr Perrottet said the Government’s priority now is to educate the public that no one be forced to work on Boxing Day – and retailers who do so may be subject to heavy penalties.

“To ensure retailers and their employees are fully aware of their rights, the Government will work with retailers, unions and industry organisations to develop a comprehensive information campaign ahead of Boxing Day this year,” he said.

The Government has also agreed to conduct an inquiry commencing October 2019 to further assess the impact of the reforms.

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