



**Minister for Commerce
Minister for Finance
Minister for Industrial Relations
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Disability Services
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council**

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Shop trading for Christmas-New Year holidays in NSW

NSW Minister for Industrial Relations, John Della Bosca, today announced retail employees would have the choice of working on Boxing Day and New Year's Day under shop trading arrangements for the coming Christmas season.

"Given Work Choices has led to a reduction in the living standards of NSW families through stripping away penalty rates for overtime and holiday leave, many are struggling to make ends meet," Mr Della Bosca said.

"Families have been further squeezed by spiking fuel prices and three interest rate rises with a further expected next week.

"Many people are doing it tough under Work Choices – an unfair regime supported by Peter Debnam who has vowed to hand over all NSW families to this unfair Commonwealth system if elected next year.

"According to a recent ABS survey, real wages have fallen by \$11 a week over the past 12 months and the Fair Pay Commission decision does little to claw back interest rate rises and other price hikes, such as food.

"Under this year's arrangements, general shops, such as food supermarkets, department stores, furniture, electrical and hardware shops in the commercial business districts of Sydney City, Newcastle City and Cabramatta have the option to open on both Boxing Day and New Year's Day," the Minister said.

In addition, general shops in tourist resort areas across the State will be permitted to trade (see attached list).

"However, business owners can only use staff who voluntarily elect to work on these days. Staff must not be subjected to any sort of coercion, threat or intimidation," Mr Della Bosca said.

"These arrangements are in line with the lemma Government's family-friendly work policies and provides retail workers with an opportunity to spend time with their family and friends, if they should choose to do so.

"Small and scheduled shops, such as petrol stations, video stores and corner shops, can trade unrestricted over the Christmas/New Year period.

"The NSW Office of Industrial Relations will investigate shops that open illegally and will back it up with prosecutions as required," Mr Della Bosca said.

The Minister also said there would be no restrictions on trading for Australia Day. But, on Anzac Day, general shops would not be permitted to open until 1pm.

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Tourist resort areas where general shops are permitted to trade on Boxing Day and New Year's Day:

City of ALBURY
Shire of BALLINA
Shire of BEGA
Shire of BELLINGEN
Shire of BERRIGAN
City of BLUE MOUNTAINS
Shire of BYRON
Municipality of CASINO
City of COFFS HARBOUR
Shire of COOMA-MONARO
Shire of COONABARABRAN
Shire of COROWA
Municipality of DENILQUIN
Shire of DUNGOG
Shire of EUROBODALLA
Shire of GLOUCESTER
City of GOSFORD
City of GRAFTON
Shire of GREAT LAKES
Municipality of HASTINGS
Shire of KEMPSEY
Municipality of KIAMA
Shire of KYOGLE
City of LISMORE
Shire of MACLEAN
Town Improvement District of MATHOURA
Shire of NAMBUCCA
Shire of NARRANDERA
Shire of PORT STEPHENS
Shire of RICHMOND RIVER
Municipality of SHELLHARBOUR
City of SHOALHAVEN
Shire of SINGLETON
City of GREATER TAREE
Shire of TWEED
Shire of WALGETT
Shire of WINGECARRIBEE
Shire of WYONG