

## Media Release

7 November 2011

### SHOPPING CENTRE COUNCIL SLAMS ANNOUNCEMENT OF GEOGRAPHIC APARTHEID ON PUBLIC HOLIDAY TRADING HOURS

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia has welcomed the South Australian Government's announcement that shop trading will be permitted from 9am to 9pm on Tuesday 27 December 2011.

However the Council has strongly opposed the decision to permit only shops in the Adelaide CBD to trade on public holidays in future.

"This is simply geographic apartheid," the Executive Director of the Shopping Centre Council, Milton Cockburn, said today.

"Where governments choose to intervene in business affairs, they must be guided by considerations of equity, and ensure policy consistency, amongst those subject to intervention."

"Governments should not confer a privilege on one group of consumers, retailers and retail property owners but deny that privilege to another (and much larger) group of consumers, retailers and retail property owners."

"Governments should, wherever possible, create level playing fields for businesses."

"Governments should not restrict competition on the basis of geographic location."

"This is a return to the 'bad old days' of last century when Sunday trading was permitted only in the Adelaide CBD".

"Only around one per cent of Adelaide's residents reside within the boundaries of Adelaide city. This decision will turn the vast majority of Adelaide residents into second class citizens."

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