

SHOP TRADING HOURS (RUNDLE MALL TOURIST PRECINCT) AMENDMENT BILL

24 March 2011

Adjourned debate on second reading. (Continued from 10 February 2011.)

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (10:32): I rise to support this bill on opening up—

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr PEDERICK: —shop trading hours in the Rundle Mall precinct. The precinct the member for Adelaide talks about is more than just a shopping precinct; it is a tourism precinct, and I just wonder whether the government, on the other side of this place, recognises the value of tourism to this state. You can certainly see the value of tourism when you go into a tourism precinct such as Glenelg, in the member for Morphett's electorate. It is very vibrant over weekends, with shops, restaurants and businesses open for trade, and people who come into this state know that they can go down there and participate in social activities and dining, as well as browsing through the shops if they like. It is a great setting.

I think it would really open up the city if we opened up the central business area as a tourism and shopping precinct. Only recently, with the visit of two cruise ships to Adelaide, we had to go through the scenario of getting special exemption so that shops could open longer hours. That certainly does seem ridiculous in the 24-hour world we now live in; people do not work nine to five in many occupations. Health and mining are two major examples in this state: the mining industry operates for 24 hours a day as a matter of need, and the health sector does as well.

However, we are not talking about 24 hours as far as opening in the tourism precinct is concerned; we are talking about people having the right to go into that precinct on weekends, generally in daylight hours on a Saturday or Sunday, to conduct business, go to restaurants and just enjoy the benefits of being out in Adelaide and this state. It just seems ridiculous that we seem to have this closed-door policy to our central business district in this state, when we could make it so much better and so much more inviting, and make Adelaide open for business and much more attractive not just to tourists but also to country people like myself.

Sometimes, the only opportunity to get to the city is on weekends for many country people, especially from the seat of Hammond, which stretches out to Pinnaroo on the Victorian border. Those people want the opportunity, when they do get the time to come to the city to do their business, to do a bit of shopping and have a bit of leisure time, knowing that places are open.

I believe that the centre of Adelaide misses out on a lot of finance not just from people outside the state but from people who live in this state and who come into the city to do business. I fully commend the bill introduced by the member for Adelaide. I think it is an excellent bill to be before this house, and I think the parliament should definitely get behind it.