



Gladys Berejiklian
Treasurer
Minister for Industrial Relations

MEDIA RELEASE

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SECOND YEAR OF BOXING DAY TRADE ACROSS NSW

Residents in Western Sydney and regional NSW will be able to shop locally at the Boxing Day sales for a second year running, thanks to reforms introduced by the NSW Government.

Treasurer Gladys Berejiklian reminded all retailers across the State that they have the option of trading on 26 December if their staff freely elect to work.

“Last year we removed unfair and outdated restrictions which prevented shops from trading on 26 December in areas like Western Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong,” Ms Berejiklian said.

“The response from local communities and retailers following Boxing Day 2015 was extremely positive and we expect it to be even more successful this year.”

Previously, retail shops were prohibited from opening on Boxing Day if they were not within the Sydney CBD Trading Precinct or a designated regional tourist area.

“Allowing all retailers across the State to trade on Boxing Day boosts local economies, creates an even playing field for all businesses and gives shoppers the choice of staying local,” Ms Berejiklian said.

“Retailers should be aware of their responsibilities and in the lead up to 26 December I am reminding them that there are heavy penalties in place for those who do the wrong thing.”

Under the legislation, no employee can be forced to work and no shop can be forced to open. All staff working on 26 December must have freely elected to do so. Fines of up to \$11,000 per person found to have been coerced to work will apply.

As part of the reforms, the Government committed to undertake a review into Boxing Day trade after two years to ensure it is operating effectively. The review will take place after 26 December 2016.

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