



T R E A S U R E R

MEDIA RELEASE

JB Hi-Fi expansion supports another 765 new jobs as NSW leads retail recovery

NSW is leading the recovery of Australia's retail sector, creating jobs and boosting the state's economy, NSW Treasurer Eric Roozendaal said today.

Latest figures show NSW consumers have been spending about \$11 million a day more than they were around this time last year, before the worst of the global financial crisis hit.

Mr Roozendaal said the boost in business and consumer confidence was highlighted by the expansion of retailer JB Hi-Fi in NSW, creating 765 new direct jobs.

Over the next three years, JB Hi-Fi will add a further 17 NSW stores to its stable.

Mr Roozendaal was joined by JB Hi-Fi chairman Mr Patrick Elliott at the Australian retailer's Bondi Junction store for the announcement.

"This expansion is further proof of a resurgent retail industry in NSW," Mr Roozendaal said.

"We're seeing the green shoots of recovery in the economy and that's good news for the families of NSW."

NSW retailers have seen the greatest benefit of any state in Australia in the pick-up in confidence. An analysis of key Australian Bureau of Statistics data reveals:

- Between the September 2008 quarter and June 2009, the growth in NSW retail sales has been at 6.1 per cent – more than 1.5 per cent better than the next closest state, Victoria
- That growth equates to NSW consumers spending an extra \$1 billion more in the June 2009 quarter than the September 2008 quarter – or about \$11 million a day in extra spending
- The household goods, electrical, furniture and groceries sectors are leading the charge in NSW.

NSW Retail Turnover

Sector Quarter	Groceries	Clothing	Appliances and music	Furniture	Household goods
Sept 2008 (\$m)	1754.9	328.6	449.0	184.2	896.4
June 2009 (\$m)	1919.5	355.6	490.8	239.4	1024.1
Increase (\$m)	164.6	27.0	41.8	55.2	127.7
Increase (%)	9.4	8.2	9.3	29.7	14.2

Source: ABS, seasonally adjusted

Consumer confidence has experienced “an extraordinary rally in confidence over the past two months”, according to last week’s Westpac-Melbourne Institute Consumer Sentiment Index, which has increased a remarkable 43.6 per cent relative to its bottoming out in July last year.

Mr Roozendaal said the JB Hi-Fi expansion is exciting news on the back of strong retail confidence.

“Supporting jobs is the NSW Government’s Number one priority – that is why we are backing companies like JB Hi-Fi,” Mr Roozendaal said.

“During these tough economic times, we are seeing the phenomenon known as the ‘drift to thrift’ – where consumers are still engaging in discretionary spending but they are concentrating on less expensive items.

“NSW consumers are spending more on stay-at-home items such as home entertainment.

“All of my energies are focused on supporting jobs, maintaining business confidence and keeping the NSW economy strong,” Mr Roozendaal said.

JB Hi-Fi will open seven new NSW stores over the next year at:

- Eastgardens;
- Moore Park;
- Top Ryde;
- Sydney CBD;
- Albury;
- Wollongong; and
- Artarmon.

Mr Roozendaal welcomed the announcement today that the electronics retailer will open a further 10 stores, taking to 17 the number of new stores over the next three years.

There are currently 25 JB Hi-Fi stores in NSW with 1,328 staff.

The expansion will take the total number of stores to 42 – and its total NSW workforce to almost 2100 within the next three years.