

1 June 2022

Hon David Parker, Attorney-General

Consistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990: Repeal of Good Friday and Easter Sunday as Restricted Trading Days (Shop Trading and Sale of Alcohol) Amendment Bill

1. We have considered whether the Repeal of Good Friday and Easter Sunday as Restricted Trading Days (Shop Trading and Sale of Alcohol) Amendment Bill ('the Bill') is consistent with the rights and freedoms affirmed in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 ('the Bill of Rights Act').
2. The Bill is a Members' Bill in the name of Chris Ballie MP. The Bill seeks to amend the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990 (the Principal Act) to remove the restriction on trading and selling alcohol on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.
3. The explanatory note of the Bill states that 'By removing these restrictions, trading will be permitted throughout these days. This allows businesses to self-determine which days they would like to open...' The Bill also 'retains the existing employee protections under the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990 that apply in respect of Easter Sunday and extends these protections to Good Friday.'
4. In addition to amending the Principal Act, the Bill also seeks to amend the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 to remove the default restriction on the sale and supply of alcohol on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.
5. We have concluded that the Bill appears to be consistent with the rights and freedoms affirmed in the Bill of Rights Act



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