



STATUS QUO FOR EASTER TRADING

To be released 21 September 2017

MED201732

Today Central Hawke's Bay District Council has decided to not adopt the Draft Local Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy, meaning shops currently not able to trade on Easter Sunday will remain, and the status quo will stay.

Council was by majority in favour of preserving the status quo which, along with Good Friday, Christmas Day and Anzac Day, allows three and a half days of little or no shop trading each year.

Councillors in their deliberations, gave consideration to the impact their decision would have on freedom of choice and in particular the wider social and economic benefits to the community and family life when considering the policy.

Cr. Minehan spoke passionately to the item supporting the retention of status quo saying "In the past few years, the Central Hawke's Bay Business shop owners have every Christmas period opened up on the last three Sundays before Christmas. We advertised in the local paper, and local radio, and put posters in our main windows advertising we were open. The majority of shop owners said it did not work, very few public came shopping and some said they got no one in the door."

Council received 17 submissions of which there was equal feedback for and against the proposal to permit shops to open on Easter Sunday. Of those 17 submitters, Former Mayor, Hamish Kynoch was the only public submitter that chose to speak to his submission and urged Council to retain the status quo.

"People in Central Hawke's Bay, people who work in retail, should not have their opportunities to enjoy time with friends and family reduced", said Mr. Kynoch.

Deputy Mayor Sharp expressed his dissatisfaction with this matter being delegated to councils to resolve.

The Shop Trading Hours Amendment Act 2016 (the Act) came into force in 2016 enabling councils to adopt policies to permit more shops to open for trade on Easter Sunday.

Earlier this year Central Hawke's Bay District Council sought feedback on whether the community wished to retain the status quo or whether the Council should adopt a policy that will allow shops in all or parts of Central Hawke's Bay to trade on Easter Sunday from 2018.

The policy allowing shops to open on Easter Sunday was not adopted.

A division was called by the Mayor on this decision.

Councillors voting in support of decision: Cr. Burne-Field, Cr. Chote, Cr. Minehan, Cr. Annand, Mayor Walker, Cr. Sharp.

Against: Cr. Aitken, Cr. Muggeridge, Cr. Tennent.

Ends

Authorised by Chief Executive: Monique Davidson

Media contact

Monique Davidson, Chief Executive | P 06 857 8060 M 027 601 1711

Like us on Facebook | CENTRAL HAWKE'S BAY DISTRICT COUNCIL