



MEDIA RELEASE

7 December 2017

RETAIL NZ WELCOMES KAPITI EASTER SUNDAY TRADING DECISION

Retail NZ has welcomed the Kapiti Coast District Council's decision to allow choice in relation to Easter Sunday shopping.

"It's great news for the retail sector, and for customers, that the Council has adopted a policy that allows retail shops to open their doors for business on Easter Sunday if they wish to do so," Greg Harford, Retail NZ's General Manager for Public Affairs, said today. "Kapiti is a significant holiday destination in its own right, and there are many people travelling through the District every Easter. It makes sense that shops are allowed to make their own decisions about whether or not to open.

"Not all retailers will want to open, and there will be employees who don't want to work on Easter Sunday. The great news is that there are special legal provisions that protect the rights of businesses to stay closed and employees not to work if they do not wish to do so, so nobody is disadvantaged by the decision in favour of shopper choice.

"By adopting a policy that allows shops to open on Easter Sunday, the Council is leading the way in creating a level playing field for Kapiti retailers. Some retailers will no longer have a commercial advantage generated by outdated exemptions in the shopping ban, and anyone from the biggest to smallest retailer, including the likes of the Te Horo Easter Sunday market can now legally open on Easter Sunday without fear of prosecution by the authorities.

"51 per cent of all New Zealanders undertook some form of commercial activity on Easter Sunday this year, and many shopped online from home. The KCDC decision is a sensible and pragmatic one recognising the fact that there is some customer demand for shopping on Easter Sunday, and that the best people to decide whether shops should open are the managers of the businesses concerned, taking into account customer demand and employee views.

"Retail NZ is hoping that Upper Hutt City will also adopt an Easter Sunday trading policy shortly, ahead of Easter 2018."

For further information, please contact:

Greg Harford
General Manager, Public Affairs
Retail NZ
027 243 2842
greg.harford@retail.kiwi