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Sunday Shopping Hours Pledge

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton, said he fully supports the Premier's pledge to deregulate Sunday trading laws after the next State election to give local residents the right to shop on a Sunday and local businesses the right to open on a Sunday if they choose.

"The polls clearly show that the community want the right to shop on a Sunday. They do not want a mishmash of some areas able to trade and others not. They want the trading hours to be deregulated and that is what we plan to do," said Dr Nahan.

"We have around 40 years of debate and so-called reform to get to this point but many people recognise that Perth has changed and that shopping has become a passionate pastime for many."

"There were different values 40 years ago that no longer apply in today's modern world but our shopping regulations remain mired back in those times."

Dr Nahan said the Barnett Government has had some success in stripping back some of the restrictions on our freedom to shop.

"Shops can now open from 8.00am - 9.00pm on weekdays and from 8.00am - 5.00pm Saturday. But don't laugh, getting the shopping hours extended from 6pm to 9pm on weekdays was arguably one the most difficult accomplishments of the Barnett Government," said Dr Nahan.

"In an effort to bring about change, the Barnett Government also created a number of special trading precincts such as in Armadale, Midland, Fremantle and Joondalup, which are allowed seven day shopping. This move put additional pressure on the Opposition to clearly show how restrictive the current regulations are."

"While this may have helped these lucky few communities and got Labor Party support for partial deregulation, it has undermined all other communities and distorted investment in favour of those particular trading precincts."

"The unions representing workers in the retail and grocery sector, who have a great deal of influence within the Labor Party, are strongly against Sunday trading presumably because it may undermine penalty rates and other benefits."

"This is not a satisfactory outcome for all and while we need to listen to commercial interests, the rights, needs and preference of the people must take precedence. In short, people should be given the right to shop when they want and shops should be given the right to open if and when they choose."

Media Contact: Dr Mike Nahan 9457 1282 or 0412 911 969