

30 June 2010

The Manager
Wellington City Council
PO Box 2199
WELLINGTON
Attention: Stephen.Carruthers@wcc.govt.nz

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Sunday Parking Time limits

Introduction

The New Zealand Retailers Association wishes to present the following summary submission in respect of a proposal to introduce time limits (2 hours) in the pay and display/metered parking areas within Wellington City from 8am to 6pm on Sundays.

Background

The Association is the largest group representing the retail industry in New Zealand. Our membership includes the major supermarkets and general merchandise chains, specialised chains and thousands of owner operators spread throughout the country. The membership also includes a number of specialised trade groups representing manufacturers, distributors and retailers in the plumbing materials, metal fastener, pet, equestrian, jewellery, bicycle and sporting goods sectors.

Viewed nationally retail sales now total some \$66b per annum and increased by 0.4% between 2008 and 2009. Viewed regionally sales within the jurisdiction of the Wellington Regional Council now total \$6.9b, representing 10.6% of total sales in New Zealand. Between 2008 and 2009 sales within the Wellington region declined by 4.1%

General Submission

The Association has surveyed its membership and they are generally supportive of the proposal to introduce a time limit on pay-and-display and metered Sunday parking in the central city area (ie. The Central Business District (essentially the Railway Station through to Courtenay Place)). It was felt that the proposal would have the desired effect of freeing up more parking spaces which is obviously conducive to their businesses, in assisting greater customer flow from convenience of parking in closer proximity to their stores.

There is, however, concern from some retailers that the Council may contemplate to extend the proposal to fringe CBD areas such as Thorndon Quay where destination retailers such as furniture stores attract shoppers who may be interested in viewing a number of stores to canvass options for a significant purchase. Such a decision and

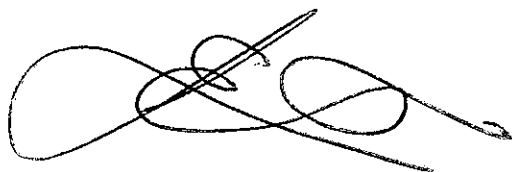
shopping experience is generally undertaken over a period of time longer than two hours.

Also, the extension of such time limit restrictions to other areas such as Molesworth Street also raises potential difficulties associated with major daytime events such as rugby matches or trade shows at the Stadium on a Sunday afternoon. Accordingly we would oppose extending the proposal beyond the central city.

The Association considers that part of the current review should embrace better promotion of the off street car parking facilities within the city. We appreciate that car parking buildings are now principally privately owned but even so we consider better signage on the main motor ways into the city outlining the availability of offsite parks within the city would ease parking congestion at the weekends. We also consider that ongoing promotion of schemes such as 'In the Know' which provides six hours parking for \$3 would assist to mitigate weekend parking congestion.

In summary the Association continues to support free parking within the city at weekends which was introduced in the mid 1990's to support the retail sector. However, we accept that the growth of inner city apartment living has exacerbated the problem of car parking with the city and we consequently accept the need for enforcement of time limits in parking over the weekend in the CBD area of the city.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Louise Evans', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Louise Evans
GOVERNMENT & ADVISORY GROUP MANAGER