

## RETAIL TRADING ACT 2008 DECISION

### REASONS FOR DECISION

1. I, Fiona Hayman, am an officer holding a delegation from the Secretary under the *Retail Trading Act 2008 (Act)* to exercise the functions prescribed in that Act.
2. On 13 June 2019, Coles Group Limited (**Applicant**) made an application under section 10 of the Act as occupier of a shop at World Square Shopping Centre 680 George Street Sydney NSW (**Shop**), for the Shop to be exempt from the requirement to be kept closed on Easter Sunday in 2020, 2021 and 2022 (**Application**).
3. The Application was placed on public exhibition for a period of no less than 14 days from 1 July 2019 and public comment was sought.
4. On this day, I have decided to refuse the Application, as I am not satisfied that it is in the exceptional circumstances of the case in the public interest to grant it, having regard to:
  - a. the nature of the Shop and the kinds of goods sold by the Shop,
  - b. the need for the Shop to be kept open on the days concerned,
  - c. the likely effect of the proposed exemption on the local economy, tourism and small businesses and other businesses in the area,
  - d. the likely effect of the proposed exemption on employees of, or persons working in, the Shop.
5. In making this decision I have taken into account the principles enunciated in a decision of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal (**Shop Distributive and Allied Employees Association v Director General of Services Technology and Administration and K-Mart Australia Limited [2010] NSW ADT 312**) that the test under section 10 is a two-step process, there being a need for both exceptional circumstances and for the granting of the exemption to be in the public interest having regard to the matters listed above.
6. My reason for this decision is that the circumstances identified in the Applicant's application, including:
  - a. that the Shop is located in the central business district and a main/busy tourism precinct,
  - b. that the local demographic are generally frequent shoppers who purchase a basket size of produce at each visit, rather than a full weekly shop in comparison to other areas,
  - c. that the availability of Sydney facilities should not be restricted for locals and visitors to Sydney

are not exceptional relative to other shops which are required to be closed on Easter Sunday under the Act.

7. Based on the material presented, I have formed the view that it is not in the public interest for the exemption to be granted as it is not evident that it is detrimental to the public that the Shop is closed on Easter Sunday.

**Fiona Hayman**  
**Authorisations Manager, Customer Experience**  
**NSW Fair Trading**  
**23 July 2019**