

News Release Deputy Premier John Rau

Attorney General
Minister for Planning
Minister for Industrial Relations
Minister for Business Services and Consumers



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More than half-a-million shoppers vote with their feet

More than half-a-million people took advantage of the first year of new city shop-trading hours in 2012, as more shoppers hit Rundle Mall for today's Australia Day holiday trading.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Industrial Relations John Rau said that 2012's Rundle Mall figures demonstrate that new shop trading hours negotiated by the State Government have been a runaway success.

"Rundle Mall will again be buzzing with activity today as people make the most of shop trading changes brought about last year," Mr Rau said.

"Thousands of visitors to South Australia who have enjoyed the spectacle of the Tour Down Under will be able to spend their dollars and help city retailers and cafés this Australia Day holiday.

"I am told that in Rundle Mall alone, upwards of \$55million dollars was spent last year by more than 600,000 people. This is on days where the City was previously closed."

The Rundle Mall Management Authority estimates that around 70,000 people shopped in the Mall on each of the first eight public holidays in the city. It also estimates that a further 120,000 people shopped in the Mall for the first ever Boxing Day sales in Adelaide.

A survey of traders by the Rundle Mall Management Authority also says that:

- 58% of Rundle Mall traders said that Boxing Day 2012 was their biggest trading day of the year, and;
- 64% of Rundle Mall traders said their performance improved in 2012 due to public holiday trading.

"I am told that retail and hospitality in particular have benefitted tremendously by these changes to shop trading hours," Mr Rau said.

"Clearly the changes negotiated by the State Government are good for shoppers, good for workers and great for businesses."

This year, Australia Day fell on a Saturday and therefore the corresponding public holiday falls on the Monday.

Mr Rau said that as the new Minister for Industrial Relations he believes that current public holiday shop trading hours are appropriate.

"I am satisfied that we have the right balance of public holiday shop trading hours in the city," Mr Rau said.