

Licensee leads liquor reform calls

■ **Tim Edmunds**

Regional liquor stores will be allowed to trade on Sundays if the State Government endorses a recommendation backed by an Albany licensee.

McKail's General Store owner Don Perfremment has called for an extension of trading hours for liquor stores in regional areas, which has been recommended as part of a comprehensive review of the Liquor Control Act.

Mr Perfremment's call was part of 149 submissions from key stakeholders, industry groups and the public received by the independent committee.

While the review resisted calls for extended trading hours for hotels, taverns and small bars, it was

recommended the Act be amended to authorise all liquor stores to trade on Sundays between 10am and 10pm — one of 141 recommendations.

Regional liquor stores are not permitted to trade on Sunday unless an extended trading permit has been issued.

Mr Perfremment said he had spent close to \$30,000 in a process which took 18 months for him to gain an extended trading permit a month ago, but still believed all regional liquor stores should be allowed to trade on Sunday.

"I honestly believe it's inequitable for people in the country to be penalised," he said.

"It is not fair especially in a place

like Albany.

"Me trading on a Sunday is not going to harm anyone and I'm certainly not creating a new demand and making people drink more."

He said Albany's role as a major tourism destination was a key reason why Sunday trading for bottle shops was necessary.

Racing and Gaming Minister Terry Waldron said key stakeholders would be given a chance to read and absorb the findings before meetings are arranged.

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