



NSW Council of Churches **MEDIA RELEASE**

For immediate release

20 March 2009

Churches welcome decision on Easter Sunday trading

NSW Council of Churches Public Affair Director Rod Benson today welcomed the decision by the Office of Industrial Relations to refuse permission for major retailers to trade in NSW on Easter Sunday.

It was apparent that strong opposition from churches, unions and retail workers, together with a lack of consumer demand for shopping on restricted trading days, had led to the decision, he said.

The Christian faith has profoundly shaped Australian society, has a central place in Australian life, and will shape Australia for generations to come. Commerce should not trump Christ this Easter, Rev Benson said.

In these troubled times there is increased community interest in the symbolic, ceremonial and spiritual meaning of Easter and Christmas. The Gospel story is the central narrative of western civilization, and these special days reserved for religious observance and spiritual renewal should not be displaced by blatant unprincipled commercialism.

Major retailers today launched an appeal against the decision with the Administrative Decisions Tribunal. Christians throughout NSW were praying that the appeal would be lost.

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