



Easter Sunday Shop Trading

PUBLIC PRE-CONSULTATION



Local councils can now create local policies to allow shop trading either across their entire district or in limited areas on Easter Sunday.

Tararua District Council needs to conduct a pre-consultation to establish whether the community wants to see a change to the current situation (no trading allowed) and is seeking opinions through a public survey.

Pre-consultation opens on 8 April and closes on 10 May.

Information Sheet

Easter Sunday has traditionally been a restricted shop trading day. Central Government has passed the decision-making responsibility to Local Government about whether trading on Easter Sunday should be allowed. This has no effect on Good Friday, which will remain a holiday with no trading.

Tararua District Council needs to conduct a pre-consultation to establish whether the community wants to see a change to the current situation (no trading allowed) and is seeking opinions through a public survey.

If the survey results show that the community want to see a change, Council will then develop a policy for formal consultation with the community. Only after this process will the policy be finalised and adopted.

Key changes to the law

- Local councils can now create local policies to allow shop trading either across their entire district or in limited areas on Easter Sunday. No other days are affected.
- All shop employees have the ability to refuse to work on Easter Sunday without providing a reason to their employer.

Shops that are currently allowed to open on Easter Sunday

Currently, (under the status quo) only certain shops are legally permitted to open for trade on Easter Sunday, these include:

- service stations
- dairies
- pharmacies
- restaurants and cafes
- take away food shops
- duty free shops
- garden centres
- shops at public transport stations, shows or exhibitions and
- certain services (e.g. hairdressers, video rental and real estate agencies).

The types of shops currently not permitted to open on Easter Sunday include shopping malls, supermarkets and clothing, appliance, homeware, sports and recreation retailers.

The Shop Trading Hours Amendment Act 2016, which amended the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990 (the Act), came into force in August 2016. The Act allows councils to propose a policy to allow all shops to open for trade in either all or parts of a district on Easter Sunday.

Where to go for more information

If you'd like to learn more about the changes, you can visit any of the below sites:

Shop Trading Hours Amendment Act 2016:

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2016/0039/34.0/DLM6632743.html>

Employment New Zealand – Restricted shop trading days:

<https://www.employment.govt.nz/leave-and-holidays/public-holidays/restricted-shop-trading-days/>

New Zealand Government – Working over Easter:

<https://www.govt.nz/browse/work/public-holidays-and-work/working-over-easter/>