



**HURUNUI**  
*District Council*

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**Statement of Proposal on the Easter  
Sunday Shop Trading Policy**

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**Consultation between 3 February and 3  
March 2025**

*This statement of proposal is prepared under section 5C of the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990 and section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.*

## Introduction

This Statement of Proposal has been prepared as part of consultation on a review of an existing Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy (the Policy) for Hurunui District, in accordance with section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002. The statement includes:

- The reason for the proposal;
- An overview of the proposed policy and the options available; and
- A description of the consultation process and how to provide your views on the proposal.

The purpose of the Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy is to enable shops to trade on Easter Sunday if they wish to.

## Background

Prior to the 2016 amendment to the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990, trading restrictions on retailers included restricted trading on three and a half days of the year – Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Anzac Day (until 1pm) and Christmas Day.

In 2016, the government amended the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990 to allow territorial authorities to have a policy to permit shops to open on Easter Sundays. Previously the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990 only allowed shops selling certain types of goods (for example dairies, service stations and garden centres) to remain open on Easter Sunday.

In response, Hurunui District Council proposed an Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy for the whole district, and in March 2018 our current policy was adopted.

## Reasons for the Proposal

In accordance with section 5C of the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990, our current policy is now due for review. **The Council is proposing to retain the existing Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy that retailers may open if they wish.**

Consultation is being undertaken with the public so we can assess public support for the proposal and can consider alterations to policy because of the public submissions received.

The Draft policy and information on how you can have your say is available at Council offices and on Council's website, <https://www.hurunui.govt.nz/have-your-say/consultations>

## Overview of the Policy

In accordance with section 5A of the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990, a local Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy cannot:

- a. permit shops to open only for some purposes
- b. permit only some types of shops to open
- c. specify times at which shops may or may not open
- d. include any other conditions as to the circumstances in which shops in the area may open

Furthermore, a local Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy cannot override shop trading provisions in other legislation, such as alcohol licensing provisions.

The Shop Trading Hours Act 1990 recognises that Easter Sunday is a day of significance across New Zealand and some people would not want to work on this day. The Council's current Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy:

- provides retailers within the whole of Hurunui District boundary with the choice to open on Easter Sunday if they wish. Ultimately it is up to individual retailers whether they choose to exercise the right to open (i.e. there is no obligation to do so).
- refers to the Workers Choice Provision which gives employees and employers the ability to negotiate freely and gives employees the ability to refuse work on Easter Sunday without any repercussions to the employment relationship.

For the purpose of this policy, the definition of a shop under the Act is as follows:

*shop means a building, place, or part of a building or place, where goods are kept, sold, or offered for sale, by retail; and includes an auction mart, and a barrow, stall, or other subdivision of a market; but does not include— I. II. III. a private home where the owner or occupier's effects are being sold (by auction or otherwise); or a building or place where the only business carried on is that of selling by auction agricultural products, pastoral products, and livestock, or any of them; or a building or place where the only business carried on is that of selling goods to people who are dealers, and buy the goods to sell them again.*

HDC will not be responsible for the enforcement of this policy. Enforcement will be undertaken by the central government department responsible for the administration of the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990.

## **Council is proposing to retain the Existing Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy without amendment**

Shops in our District have been able to open on Easter Sunday since Easter 2018. This has provided businesses a choice whether to open or not and provides opportunities for increased trading for those who choose to open. There are no restrictions on online retail business on Easter Sunday. The proposal to retain the existing Policy provides an increase to retail trade which will benefit the local business community and provides opportunities for consumers to shop.

For many workers it has had a positive impact because they have the ability to work and be paid on Easter Sunday, essentially allowing them to be paid for an additional day than they would be otherwise. Employees can also refuse to work on Easter Sunday without being required to give a reason.

A district wide policy continues to be considered the most appropriate, efficient, and effective approach due to the small size of the retail centres in our district and this ensures all are treated equally. The existing Policy provides a consistent approach to Easter Trading across the whole of Hurunui District and allays any potential confusion for local residents and tourists, or any perceptions of preferential and unequal treatment if a Policy which targeted specific areas was adopted.

**Having regard to all of the above, the Council is proposing to retain the existing Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy without amendment.**

### **Where can I find more information**

A report was discussed at Council's meeting on 28 January 2025. These reports, which includes Council's current Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy, along with a recording of the meeting can be found on our website: <https://www.hurunui.govt.nz/council/meetings-and-committees/meetings>

Council officer Andrew Mactier is leading the Policy review process and can be contacted at [andrew.mactier@hurunui.govt.nz](mailto:andrew.mactier@hurunui.govt.nz) or phone 03 314 8816.

## How can I have my say?

We actively encourage the community to contribute to the review of this important document and it is easy to have your say. Simply make a submission on the draft policy and return it to us by Monday 3 March 2025. The Submission Form can be found on our website <https://www.hurunui.govt.nz/have-your-say/consultations>

### How you can make a submission:

- ✚ Email - [submission@hurunui.govt.nz](mailto:submission@hurunui.govt.nz)
- ✚ Drop in to - you can simply write your submission as a letter and drop it off at 66 Carters Road, Amberley
- ✚ Post it to – Submissions, Hurunui District Council, PO Box 13, Amberley 7410

*Note: Please be aware that submissions made to Council are public information. Your submission will be used and reproduced for purposes such as reports to Councillors, which are made available to the public and media.*

**You must have your submission back to Council by Monday 3 March 2025.**