## 'Last chance' push for extended shopping hours

## CHALPAT SONTI

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The WA Chamber of Commerce and Industry has launched a new push for extended trading hours.

Frustrated shoppers who want to let MPs know how they really feel about Perth's <u>retail</u> <u>trading hours</u> will now be able to do so easily through cyberspace.

The state's peak business lobby group, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, today launched its <u>Choice at the Checkout</u> campaign.

CCI chief executive James Pearson said the campaign, run in conjunction with the Committee for Perth thinktank, would enable West Australians who support longer hours to lobby their local MP.

It is targeted at Labor and Nationals MPs.

The Liberal Party's Retail Trading Hours Amendment Bill <u>seemed doomed for defeat</u> last month after Labor joined the Nationals in opposing it.

The Bill would, if passed, extend weeknight trading hours to 9pm in the Perth metropolitan area. It is still on the table in Parliament, but will get no further unless Labor or Nationals MPs have a change of heart.

"CCI is disappointed that Labor and National Party MPs have taken the misguided decision to side with a privileged few retailers who are currently allowed to trade outside of normal business hours to deny Perth people the option of being able to shop at a greater number of stores at times that are convenient to them," Mr Pearson said.

"Our elected representatives need to hear from as many people as possible that they want lower prices at the checkout, greater choice, more convenience, and hundreds of new jobs."

The website automatically selects the sender's local MP by postcode.

The sender also has to fill in their name and e-mail address and an automatically generated e-mail will be sent to their MP.

It reads: "I would like to voice my support for extended weeknight trading hours. With extended trading comes more choice, greater convenience and lower prices. I urge you, as a member of state parliament, to support this much needed reform."

The <u>website</u> is the latest of several that sprung up in the wake of the Labor decision not to back the Bill.

That decision led to anti-reform campaigner, WA Independent Grocers Association president John Cummings, <u>to say</u> that "history shows that Coles, Woolworths and their mouthpiece (the CCI) will never give up".