



National  
Retail  
Association

# YEAR IN REVIEW:

# ADVOCACY & INFLUENCE

JUNE 2020

Presented by:

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National Retail Association

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## 01

## AT A GLANCE

- NRA lodged 43 formal submissions with courts, tribunals and government departments between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020; a 72% increase from the previous year.
- NRA appeared as representatives of the retail industry before various state and federal courts and commissions eight times between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020, in addition to our advocacy for our members in individual matters.
- NRA advocated in relation to a broad spectrum of issues within the following areas:
  - workplace relations
  - environmental policy and sustainability
  - consumer law
  - trading hours
- The majority of submissions were lodged with the federal or state governments in relation to proposed regulation.

## NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- NRA's Legal division advocated on behalf of members before the Fair Work Commission to:
  - obtain the most beneficial outcome in the Annual Wage Review for employers in ten years;
  - defend Sunday penalty rates from further attempts of interference by the unions;
  - advance our members' interests in COVID-related applications to vary the modern awards.
- NRA engaged with 30,000 retail, quick service and hospitality businesses in relation to single-use plastic bag bans in Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia. The NRA Policy team created three dedicated web portals, engaging resources and signage, and delivered two state-wide marketing campaigns reaching over 5 million people.
- NRA was the only retail industry association to participate in all stages of the Fair Work Commission's Annual Wage Review and each of the state-based wage theft inquiries, advocating against the general criminalisation of wage non-compliance.
- NRA hosted thirteen committee meetings of the Technical Standards, Loss Prevention, and national Sustainability Committees, bringing together over 280 retailers, stakeholders and policy-makers.

## 02

## SUBMISSIONS

BELOW IS A LIST OF FORMAL SUBMISSIONS LODGED BY THE NATIONAL RETAIL ASSOCIATION ON BEHALF OF ITS MEMBERS AND THE INDUSTRY SINCE 1 JULY 2019.

Fair Work Commission: AM2014/267 – Four-yearly review of modern awards – Fast Food Industry Award 2010	July 2019
Federal Treasury: Product Safety in Online Retail Marketplaces	July 2019
Australian Capital Territory Government: 'Phasing Out Single-Use Plastics' Discussion Paper	July 2019
Western Australian Government: Single-Use Plastics 'Let's Not Draw the Short Straw' Issues Paper	July 2019
Trading Hours Application: Mt Isa Rodeo	July 2019
Trading Hours Application: Brisbane Festival	August 2019
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission: Button Battery Issues Paper	September 2019
Queensland Government: Christmas Eve Part-Public Holiday	September 2019
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission: 2020 Product Safety Priorities	October 2019
Hobart City Council: Single-Use Plastics By-Law	October 2019
Federal Department of Justice and Attorney-General: Industrial Relations Consultation – Strengthening Penalties for Non-Compliance	October 2019
Federal Treasury: Abolition of the point of sale credit exemption	November 2019
Federal Treasury: Consultation Regulation Impact Statement on the Effectiveness of the Consumer Product Safety System	November 2019
Queensland Government: Small Business Strategy Discussion Paper	December 2019
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission: Button Batteries in Toys for Children up to 36 months	December 2019
Trading Hours Application: Toowoomba Show	January 2020

## 03

## SUBMISSIONS (CONT.)

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Australian Competition and Consumer Commission: Review of the Information Standard – Cosmetic Ingredient Labelling	January 2020
Queensland Government: Ongoing Participation in the Domestic and Family Violence Working Group	January 2020
South Australian Government: Single-use and Other Plastic Products (Waste Avoidance) Bill 2019	February 2020
Blueprint for Retail Recovery - Delivered to all Federal and State Governments	February 2020
Contacted all premiers and chief ministers to request reduction in delivery curfews during "panic buying" period	March 2020
Contacted all premiers and chief ministers regarding recommended refinements to National Tenancy Code implementation	March 2020
Consulted with WA Government regarding application of <i>Commercial Tenancies (COVID-19 Response) Act 2020</i>	March 2020
Consulted with VIC Government regarding application of <i>Commercial Tenancies (COVID-19 Response) Act 2020</i>	March 2020
Participant of VIC Government Commercial Leasing Advisory Group to assist with implementation of Leasing Code of Conduct	March 2020
Developed a 10-point retail recovery plan designed to save businesses and jobs	March 2020
Leasing Code of Conduct developed in conjunction with SCCA, PGA, and ARA	March 2020
Senate Standing Committee on Economics (References): Inquiry into the Unlawful Underpayment of Employee Entitlements	March 2020
Federal Department of Justice and Attorney-General: Industrial Relations Consultation - Cooperative Workplaces	March 2020
Victorian Government: Wage Theft Bill 2020	March 2020

## 04

## SUBMISSIONS (CONT.)

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Fair Work Commission: Annual Wage Review 2019/20 - Initial Submissions	March 2020
Liased with Uber to challenge commission fees charged to restaurants and QSR's	April 2020
Participant in QLD Small Business Taskforce regarding food delivery fees	April 2020
Queensland Government: Regulation Impact Statement: Single-Use Plastic Items	April 2020
Fair Work Commission: AM2020/12 - Variation of modern awards	April 2020
Negotiations with the ACTU and the SDA regarding variations to the General Retail Industry Award 2010 to deal with the impact of COVID-19	April 2020
Queensland Government: Participation on Small Business Taskforce regarding Delivery fees	May 2020
Fair Work Commission: AM2020/20 - Application to vary the Fast Food Industry Award 2010	May 2020
Fair Work Commission: Annual Wage Review 2019/20 - Submissions in Reply	May 2020
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission: Interim authorisation under section 88 of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth) for members of the NRA regarding Rent relief	May 2020
Fair Work Commission: Annual Wage Review 2019/20 - Supplementary Submissions	May 2020
Appointment to the Morrison Government IR Working Group for Award Simplification	June 2020
Victorian Members of Parliament: Wage Theft Bill 2020(Vic)	June 2020
Application by Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association regarding General Retail Industry Award 2010 - Sunday Penalty Rates	June 2020



## PRIORITY AREAS

*"We communicate with our members to get the right direction for our advocacy. With the assistance of our retailers, and the industry, we can work towards effecting changes benefit retail."*

Our advocacy efforts will be focused on a number of policy areas which we consider present a significant short to medium term risk to the retail sector. Some of these include:

- Modern Award reform and simplification
- Loss prevention and retail crime
- Preventing further regulation and red tape
- Advancing retail trading hours
- Casual employment
- Environment and sustainability policy
- Critical infrastructure, disaster management and recovery

## ABOUT THE NATIONAL RETAIL ASSOCIATION

The National Retail Association is one of the largest and most representative organisations representing the interests of retailers across Australia.

For nearly 100 years we have supported, informed, protected and represented the interests of retailers and fast food businesses. We understand the issues and opportunities facing retailers every day.

The retail industry plays a huge role in Australia's economy, employment and greater livelihood and we are dedicated to helping unite retailers and stakeholders for the success of the industry now, and for the future.

## KEY CONTACTS

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