



**Shop Trading Hours
7 April 2006**

The Shadow Minister for Small Business Liz Penfold today called on the Minister for Industrial Relations Michael Wright to get himself organised and sign off on the pile of shop trading exemptions still waiting for his approval.

Mrs Penfold said that she had been contacted by businesses needing their approvals for the Easter trading period which is less than a week away.

Businesses need to urgently organise staff rosters and have to take into account people requiring time off. Staff need to know if they will be required to work or if they can make alternative arrangements, however people's lives are in limbo until Mr. Wright signs off on the approvals.

Easter trading is one of the busiest periods of the year and particularly in regional areas when visitors flock to our towns for the extended break.

Port Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Chairman Steven Prout said that this issue was recently raised that their annual general meeting.

"Gaining the Minister's approval is continuously a problem," Mr. Prout said. "It makes life very difficult for shop owners to arrange for staff to work given the short time line, and let's face it, its not as though Easter hasn't happened before."

Mrs. Penfold called for the minister to get his priorities in order to enable the smooth running of the State's small businesses.

ENDS.