

Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy 2025

Team Directorate	Monitoring, Enforcement and Environment Assurance, Finance and Risk
Adopted by	Council resolution on 20 March 2025
Effective date	March 2025
Next review	March 2028

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to allow all shops in the Queenstown Lakes District to open on Easter Sunday. This policy will:

- promote ease of business
- recognise the needs of the retail and tourism sectors to be able to choose to open on Easter Sunday if they wish to
- apply a consistent and simple approach to Easter Sunday shop trading.

Background

Easter Sunday is a restricted trading day under the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990 (the Act) which requires every shop to remain closed, except certain shops under certain conditions. In 2016, the Act was amended to enable Councils to introduce a policy permitting all shops to trade on Easter Sunday. Councils can apply their policy to the whole of its district, or any part or parts of its district. A policy cannot specify opening hours, types of shops that may open, or for what purposes a shop may open.

In 2017, Council adopted their first Local Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy which allowed all shops in the Queenstown Lakes District to open if they chose to.

Policy details

This policy is made under the Act and continues to allow all shops in the whole of the Queenstown Lakes District to open on Easter Sunday. A map outlining the boundary of the Queenstown Lakes District is at Attachment A, as is legally required by the Act.

Right to refuse to work

The Act and the Employment Relations Act 2000 allows Shop employees to decide not to work on Easter Sunday, without any implications to their employment relationship, and also places certain obligations on employers. The Act sets out the requirements and timing for the written notices an employer who proposes to trade on Easter Sunday must give to affected employees, and which affected employees who decide not to work on Easter Sunday must give to their Employer.

Sale and supply of alcohol

This policy does not apply to the sale or supply of alcohol. Alcohol sale and supply is regulated under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

Definitions

Term	Meaning
Shop	Is 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 – a) a private home where the owner or occupier's effects are being sold (by auction or otherwise); or b) 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 c) 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.
Employer	Has the same meaning as in Section 5 of the Employment Relations Act 2000 - <i>means a person employing any employee or employees; and includes a person engaging or employing a homemaker.</i>
Shop employee	Means an employee within the meaning of Section 6 of the Employment Relations Act 2000 who works in or from a shop - <i>means any person of any age employed by an employer to do any work for hire or reward under a contract of service.</i>

Attachment A

