



**United Retail Federation**

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Bligh Government ‘the Grinch that stole Christmas’ with Penalty Rates Double Up**

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A peak national industry body representing thousands of retailers across Queensland, the **United Retail Federation**, has expressed serious concern with a planned double up on penalty rates over the Christmas, Boxing Day and substituted holiday period, saying it will drive up prices for consumers across the Christmas period and beyond.

**Scott Driscoll**, National President of the **United Retail Federation**, said the situation meant that small businesses will be the hardest hit with restaurants and cafes forced to put up prices for a family Christmas lunch or dinner.

“This will now see a further cost burden on small businesses in particular and they will be forced to pass on these new costs to consumers across the Christmas period and beyond,” Mr Driscoll said.

“This is a mean-spirited decision that will put the Christmas Day family lunch or dinner at a restaurant well out of reach for the average Queensland family.

“Simply attending the Boxing Day Sales has also just got more expensive and every consumer will feel it in their hip pocket.

“This is a double-whammy that will see higher prices across the board.

“The Bligh Government is the Grinch that stole Christmas for many Queenslanders,” Mr Driscoll said.

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**For further information please call Scott Driscoll on 0413 831 045.**