



27 September 2017

Grand Final Eve public holiday remains out of bounds

The Geelong Chamber of Commerce reiterates its stance on removing the controversial AFL Grand Final Eve public holiday from the calendar in 2018.

This Friday 29 September will be third year that a public holiday has been scheduled on the eve of the AFL Grand Final.

Geelong Chamber of Commerce CEO Bernadette Uzelac said the needs of the business community have been overlooked.

Ms Uzelac said the message from business is clear – they cannot afford to pay for this additional public holiday.

“Not everyone is barracking for a public holiday on AFL Grand Final Eve,” Ms Uzelac said.

“There’s been a clear message from the business community that it’s not needed. The Geelong Chamber of Commerce surveyed our members following last year’s holiday and 84 per cent did not support this holiday continuing.”

“Our survey found that 67 per cent of businesses that remained open on the Friday before last year’s Grand Final would not be doing so this year. This is an increase of nine per cent from the previous year.

“Of the businesses that were open, 39 per cent said their sales on last year’s public holiday was significantly below that of a normal Friday.

“More than half of our members surveyed who remained open last year did so with reduced hours or staff, as a direct result of the increased costs associated with the public holiday.”

Ms Uzelac said the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) estimates that the Grand Final Eve public holiday costs businesses around \$1 billion.

<ends>

MEDIA CONTACT:

Bernadette Uzelac

Chief Executive Officer

T (03) 5222 2234 M 0419 581735 E bernadette.uzelac@geelongchamber.com.au