

Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy 2026

Commencement: 27th March 2026

Date of review: March 2031

This policy is adopted pursuant to the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990, by resolution of the Westland District Council on 26th March 2026.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This policy is made under Part 2, Subpart 1 of the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990.
- 1.2 The Westland District Council permits shop trading throughout the district on Easter Sunday.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 To enable shops to open for trading on Easter Sunday throughout Westland District.
- 2.2 To meet the demand for goods and services from visitors and residents during Easter.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Westland district is a popular destination and demand for goods and services from residents and visitors during peak holiday periods is high.
- 3.2 The Easter weekend is one of these peak periods, which the Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy will enable shops to open to meet this demand.

4 Definitions

- Act** for the purposes of this policy means the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990
- District** means the area of jurisdiction of the Westland District Council (Map 1)
- Shop** means 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

5. Shop employees' right to refuse to work

- 5.1 Easter Sunday continues to be a day of significance across New Zealand and some people would rather not work on this day.
- 5.2 There are 'right to refuse' provisions in the Act allow employers and employees to negotiate freely and means that all shop employees will have the ability to refuse to work on Easter Sunday without any repercussions for their employment relationship.

6. Related Matters

- 6.1 This policy does not:
 - a. apply to any day other than Easter Sunday
 - b. control the types of shops that may open, or their opening hours
 - c. apply to the sale and supply of alcohol on Easter Sunday from licensed premises, which is regulated by the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.
- 6.2 Council is not responsible for the enforcement of this Policy. Enforcement will be undertaken by the central government department that is responsible for the administration of the Act.
- 6.3 All shop employees can refuse to work on Easter Sunday, pursuant to the provisions in the Act.
- 6.4 This policy does not cover the other restricted trading days: Good Friday, Christmas Day or ANZAC Day until 1pm.

7 Review

- 7.1 The policy must be reviewed within 5 years of adoption.

Westland District Council is able to review the policy, or any subsequent local Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy, at any time.

Map 1 - The extent of the Westland District

