

Southern Gazette

 **Community**

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BELMONT

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No unity in sight on late-night trading

THE State Government's push to extend retail trading hours has received a mixed reaction, with local representatives finding themselves on opposite sides of the fence.

South Perth Mayor James Best last week told the *Gazette* reform was needed in the retail sector so the larger chains could trade for longer and provide greater choice for consumers.

"When I finish work, every-

thing is shut and I hate having to queue up and spend 30 minutes on a Saturday in a check-out line," he said.

Belmont Business Enterprise Centre founder Carol Hanlon said although consumers would benefit from extended hours, retailers would lose out, with higher operating costs resulting from a longer trading day.

Ms Hanlon said Perth's population needed to increase dra-

matically to generate enough extra sales to cover the cost of late-night trading for most small businesses.

"The majority we deal with consider 9pm trading hours will have a detrimental effect on their bottom line, lifestyle and family life," she said.

Ms Hanlon suggested staggered late night trading hours and 10am starts mid-week could offer an alternative.

Lara Hyams and Nicole Stevens