



National Retail Association

MEDIA STATEMENT

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Rates decision will boost green shoots of retail recovery

Today's cut to official interest rates will boost the green shoots of Australia's retail recovery, the nation's largest and most diverse retail peak body said.

National Retail Association executive director Gary Black said recent retail trade figures pointed to a slight but very welcome recovery for retail, following two years of difficult trading conditions.

However, the best performing retail categories continue to be essential spending, such as food and some parts of household goods, with discretionary spending continuing to struggle.

"In the lead-up to Christmas retailers are very much looking for a boost to consumer spending in those discretionary areas. A rate cut is just what they needed," Mr Black said.

"Retailers collect a large proportion of their annual income in the Christmas and New Year trading period, and this helps sustain them – and most importantly their employees – throughout the calendar year.

"This announcement by the RBA today will boost retailers' hopes of a strong Christmas/New Year trading period, and a better 2012."

Gary Black is available for interviews.

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