



MEDIA STATEMENT

National Retail Association

17 February 2010

Brisbane Council Rating of Food Businesses Good for the Industry and Good for Consumers

The National Retail Association (NRA) is Australia's largest and most representative retail organisation servicing over 3000 retail outlets across all Australian states and territories. NRA's membership includes a number of retail take-away food and fast food outlets.

NRA notes that while the scheme has the support of all the relevant industry stakeholders some criticism of the scheme has been elicited from Scott Driscoll of the Queensland Retail Traders and Shopkeepers Association.

NRA is not aware who Mr Driscoll represents and does not know whether he is qualified to pass any judgment on the proposed scheme.

NRA's Executive Director Gary Black said that "NRA strongly supports Restaurant and Catering Queensland and the Brisbane City Council in this initiative. The type of industry accreditation program proposed has been successfully implemented across other industries and professions and invariably makes a very positive contribution to raising standards in the sector, improving the visibility of the industry, and weeding out non-compliant operators. Additionally this type of program is very well received and supported by consumers including residents and tourists."

Mr Driscoll for some time has been making questionable representations about the scope and status of his association. Mr Black said that "this latest foray into an apparently unrelated sector will alienate Mr Driscoll from most established and relevant Queensland industry associations who have expressed strong support for the rating scheme proposed for the restaurant and catering sector."

End.

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