

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

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NSW PARLIAMENT BEGINS FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY HEARINGS

The NSW Parliament's Legal Affairs Portfolio Committee recently held its first public hearing for the [Inquiry into the Fire and Emergency Services Levy](#) (FESL) ([ShopTalk 25/5/18](#), [11/8/17](#)). The hearing included appearances from NSW Treasury, the Valuer General, local government representatives and insurance industry representatives. Committee Chair, Robert Borsak MLC, stated in a related [media release](#): "The FESL was due to be implemented on 1 July 2017 but was put on hold due to concerns about inequalities in the application of the Fire and Emergency Services Levy Act 2017. This inquiry is examining the Act, including the financial modelling underpinning it, and will consider alternative models for funding fire and emergency services." The inquiry was initiated following deferral of the FESL amid concerns about an unreasonable burden being shifted to small and medium businesses under the proposed shift of the the scheme from an insurance to a property-basis. There is currently no reporting date for the inquiry.

ASBFEO CALLS FOR INCREASE TO INSTANT ASSET WRITE OFF

While appearing before the Federal Parliament's Standing Committee on Economics on its [Inquiry into impediments to business investments](#), Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman, Kate Carnell AO, has called for an increase to the instant asset-write off from \$20,000 to \$100,000 ([ShopTalk 11/5/18](#)). In a related [media release](#), Ms Carnell noted that, "we will speak about embedding the instant asset write-off in legislation and raising the threshold to at least \$100,000...Equipment used by some small businesses, including farmers, cost a lot more than the \$20,000 currently on offer." The asset write-off was first introduced in the 2015 Federal Budget as a measure to support businesses with annual turnover less than \$2 million, giving them an instant tax deduction of equipment up to \$20,000. The current Federal government has, so far, been reluctant to permanently integrate the measure, instead extending it twice. It has been reported that both Federal Labor and the Greens have supported the extension of the scheme.

PETER ALLEN RE-ELECTED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SHOPPING CENTRE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

Peter Allen, CEO of Scentre Group (owner and operator of Westfield shopping centres in Australia and New Zealand) has been re-elected for a second term as the Chairman of the Shopping Centre Council of Australia. Susan MacDonald, Head of Retail, Mirvac, has been re-elected as Joint Deputy Chair, and Greg Chubb, Retail CEO, Charter Hall, has been elected as a new Joint Deputy Chair. Mr Allen has been a Director of the SCCA since July 2014, following the formation of Scentre Group on 30 June 2014, and his appointment as CEO. Mr Allen has noted: "I look forward to working closely with Susan and Greg, and our fellow Directors, members and staff, as we continue to implement our strategy and build our industry capability". In noting the SCCA's changing operating environment, Mr Allen stated: "Our operating model means we have a unique lens on issues across the country, and we're seeing an increase in disconnected policy...a critical issue is how otherwise disparate legislation connects with other policies and legislation. There's specialisation and detail in what we do, and our challenge is to ensure we're engaging deeply with our key stakeholders, and ensure issues are being considered in the right forum". Mr Allen has also paid tribute to the SCCA's former Joint Deputy Chair, John Schroder, former Group Executive and CEO Commercial Property, Stockland.

THANK YOU! ANOTHER GREAT YEAR FOR SCCA MARKETING AWARD NOMINATIONS

Thank you to all SCCA and non-SCCA members for the 179 entries in this year's [SCCA Marketing Awards](#), which were submitted under revised Award categories and classifications ([ShopTalk 18/5/18](#)). This marks the second highest number of entries in the history of the Awards. The judging process will now commence, with finalists to be announced in early September. The awards will be presented at the Gala Dinner at Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf, Sydney, on Wednesday 17 October 2018. Tickets for the Dinner are now available for purchase via a dedicated [Eventbrite website](#).

PREVIOUS ISSUES