

# SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

THURSDAY 23 JULY 2015

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## GST INTEGRITY – LOWER LOW VALUE THRESHOLD TO BE PROGRESSED BY TREASURERS IN AUGUST

The [announcement](#) today by the Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, that all of Australia's political leaders have agreed in principle "to broaden the GST to cover overseas online transactions under \$1000" is welcome. Mr Abbott said the matter will now be referred to the next meeting of Treasurers (on 21 August 2015) "to progress in detail". A recent [media report](#) said the Federal Assistant Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg, will be submitting a proposal to the meeting of Treasurers to lower the current GST Low Value Threshold (LVT) from \$1,000 to \$20 ([Shop Talk 7/5/15](#)). The Shopping Centre Council supports the lowering of the LVT, principally on tax integrity and fairness grounds. We have worked in partnership with the Retail Council, the National Retail Association and the Australian Retailers Association to have the issue addressed. This matter has been the subject of various reviews since it was thrust into the spotlight at Christmas 2010 through an ill-conceived and ill-timed campaign. This includes reviews by the Productivity Commission (2011), the Low Value Parcel Processing Taskforce (2012) and the GST Distribution Panel (2012). This issue has dragged on too long and must be finalised next month.

## NRA ANNOUNCES FINALISTS IN THE YOUNG RETAILER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Congratulations to the [Finalists](#) in the 2015 National Retail Association's *Young Retailer of the Year*. The 25 finalists will assemble on Monday 7 September, for the final stage of judging at the Future of Retail Forum. Register [here](#) for the Gala Dinner in Sydney, also on 7 September. The Shopping Centre Council is once again a proud sponsor of the Young Retailer of the Year awards.

## REMINDER: ENTRIES ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 2015 SCCA MARKETING AWARDS

Entries are now open in the 2015 Shopping Centre Council of Australia Marketing Awards. Further details and entry forms are available [here](#). Entries close on 7 August 2015.

## SCCA LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE AND LOGO AS PART OF NEW BUSINESS PLAN

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia has launched a new [website](#) and logo as part of a new business plan. (This edition of *Shop Talk* is the first to incorporate the new logo). In addition to publishing industry news, submissions, information and research, the new website is also a source of helpful industry resources, codes and regulation. The SCCA has also created a Twitter presence ([@SCCA\\_Advocacy](#)) as an additional platform for our external communication and engagement.

## DOES THE ACCC REALLY HANDLE A 'LARGE NUMBER' OF SMALL BUSINESS COMPLAINTS?

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has released its six-monthly [Small business in focus](#) report. This shows the ACCC, between January and June 2015, dealt with 5,020 'complaints' from small businesses, which the ACCC describes as a 'large number'. Well, the volume may tax the ACCC's resources – and undoubtedly some complaints are serious – but is this really a large number? According to the most [recent figures](#) published on the Federal Treasury website there are 2,045,335 small businesses in Australia. This means the number of complaints to the ACCC amounted to 0.0025 (or 0.25%) of the number of small businesses in Australia. In other words only around 25 small businesses in every 10,000 made a complaint during this six-monthly period. (A complaint, incidentally, is not evidence of wrong-doing on the part of the subject of the complaint). This is actually a very, very small number, not a 'large number'. Indeed another way of putting it is to say that 99.75% of small businesses had no cause to complain to the ACCC. Now that is a large number! But don't expect to see business dispute figures placed in their proper context. Pointing out that the evidence actually shows that the relationship between small business and big business in Australia is an overwhelmingly positive one does not suit the narrative of the 'small business lobby'.

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