

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

THURSDAY 13 AUGUST 2015

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NSW GOVERNMENT TAKES SENSIBLE DECISION ON UNNECESSARY LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

The NSW Government announced this week that it was placing all of the state's 769 licenses under the microscope to eliminate any unnecessary red tape. The Government has adopted all of the recommendations of the report of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), *Reforming Licensing in NSW*. Licensing will now be required to be assessed according to a regulatory guide and framework developed by IPART. Among the licenses identified by IPART for reform is: "The NSW Government should exempt commercial property agents who sell or manage property for a related corporate entity, or a large commercial property owner, from the requirements of the Property Stock and Business Agents Act 2002". The Government has committed that if this, and other nominated licenses, cannot be demonstrated to have a strong public policy rationale, it will be removed. This assessment in NSW will be assisted by the decision last year of the Queensland Government to remove licensing requirements for agents managing on behalf of large commercial property owners ([Shop Talk 26/11/14](#)). Needless to say the dire consequences claimed by some following this decision have not eventuated. Incidentally the latest edition of *SCN* ([Shopping Centre News](#)) – see later item - lists the 125 retail property transactions (over \$10 million) across Australia in 2014-15. None of the vendors or purchasers in these transactions could be regarded as commercially unsophisticated and therefore requiring the protection of a licensed commercial real estate agent.

RECORD NUMBER OF ENTRIES IN SHOPPING CENTRE COUNCIL MARKETING AWARDS

A total of 149 entries have been received in the 2015 [SCCA Marketing Awards](#). This is two more than last year's then record number of entries. The extensive judging process will now begin and the awards will be presented at a Gala Dinner in Sydney on Tuesday 27 October 2015. Bookings for the Gala Dinner are now on sale [here](#).

PETER ALLEN IS NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE SHOPPING CENTRE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

Peter Allen was today elected as the new Chairman of the Shopping Centre Council of Australia, for a three year term. He replaces Steven Sewell, former CEO of Federation Centres, who has resigned as Chairman. Mr Allen is the Chief Executive Officer of Scentre Group (the owner and operator of Westfield centres in Australia and New Zealand). Susan MacDonald, Head of Retail, Mirvac and John Schroder, Group Executive and CEO Commercial, Stockland, were elected as Deputy Chairs, also for a three year term. They replace Michael Gorman, Deputy CEO and Chief Investment Officer of the former Novion Property Group, who has also resigned following the Novion merger with Federation Centres. The SCCA Board of Directors expressed appreciation to Mr Sewell and Mr Gorman for their leadership of the Council over the last four years.

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT ON SMALL BUSINESS OMBUDSMAN BILL DELAYED

The Legal and Constitutional Committee of the Senate, which is inquiring into the Bill to establish an Australian Small Business Commissioner, was due to report to the Senate by 11 August ([Shop Talk 16/7/15](#)). This has now been delayed until 18 August. The proposed Ombudsman, once the Bill becomes law, will replace the position of Australian Small Business Commissioner. The submissions lodged to the Senate Committee are available [here](#).

LATEST EDITION OF SCN (SHOPPING CENTRE NEWS) IS NOW AVAILABLE

The latest edition of *SCN* ([Shopping Centre News](#)) is now available. This issue includes several interesting articles on aspects of retail tenancy law, features on shopping centre marketing and design, and a special report on retail property sales for 2014-15. Subscriptions to *SCN* can be obtained by contacting Melissa Smith on (02) 9555 7494.

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