

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

ABS RETAIL TRADE DATA POINTS TO STRONG, ALBEIT SLOWING, Y-O-Y GROWTH

The latest Retail Trade data from the ABS for July 2015 indicates that, in trend terms, the overall month-on-month (m-o-m) estimate grew by 0.2%, and by 4.4% year-on-year (y-o-y). This compares with 4.7% y-o-y growth in June 2015. In seasonally adjusted terms, across the six ABS retail categories the strongest growth was recorded for 'Clothing, footwear and personal accessory' retailing on a m-o-m basis (1.6 per cent), while 'Household goods' and 'Clothing, footwear and personal accessory' retailing recorded the strongest y-o-y growth (both 8.6 per cent). The strongest state in terms of overall growth in seasonally adjusted terms was New South Wales (up 6.8 per cent to \$91.5 billion), while the weakest states were Western Australia (up 2.5 per cent to \$33.3 billion) and Queensland (up 2.5 per cent to \$58.6 billion). Once again New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory were the only jurisdictions to record positive growth across all ABS categories.

NSW PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REJECTS BAN ON THE SALE OF PUPPIES FROM PET SHOPS

The NSW Parliament's Joint Select Committee on Companion Animal Breeding Practices in NSW has has [concluded](#) that the sale of dogs and cats from pet shops should not be banned because such a ban would lead to less scrutiny of animal sales, without improving welfare. However the Committee has recommended that the NSW Government review the statutory [Animal Welfare Code of Practice – Animals in Pet Shops](#) to strengthen protections for animals sold in pet shops. These are two of the 38 unanimous recommendations and findings of the cross-party Joint Committee. Hopefully the Committee's detailed consideration of pet shop sales will now put this issue to bed and lead the Labor Opposition, which at the last election promised to end the sale of puppies from pet shops, to reconsider its policy. The Shopping Centre Council made a submission to the Committee ([Shop Talk 16/7/15](#)).

DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENT TO IMPACT SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ACTIVITY CENTRES

The SA Government has taken the next step in its review of its existing activity centre framework ([Shop Talk 23/4/15](#)) by releasing the [Existing Activity Centres Policy Review Development Plan Amendment](#) for consultation. The DPA will, generally speaking, impact existing 'centre' and 'shopping' zones across Greater Adelaide (except for the City of Adelaide). The Government expects that the DPA will deliver "additional flexibility...in established activity centres to support new development...". In isolation, the Government's intent is welcomed and the Shopping Centre Council will continue to engage with the Government to ensure that the DPA assists to remove material barriers to shopping centre development in activity centres. However, the Government also intends to progress a second DPA which will "focus on expanding opportunities for existing and new businesses outside of established activity centres". In our view, this goal is based on a misunderstanding of the recommendations of previous Productivity Commission inquiries and, more recently, the Competition Policy Review with regard to retail development and competition in the planning system. This staged consultation process also presents stakeholders with a conundrum: How are we to assess the potential benefits of this DPA without an understanding of the potential implications the second DPA will have on South Australia's existing activity centre policy?

TOM MCGEE IS NEW CEO OF INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SHOPPING CENTRES

Thomas (Tom) McGee, currently Vice Chairman of Deloitte LLP, has been [appointed](#) the new President and Chief Executive Officer of the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC). Tom will take the reins of the world's largest trade association on 21 September from Mike Kercheval, who has led the ICSC since May 2001 and who announced his retirement late last year ([Shop Talk 9/10/14](#)).

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