

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER 2015

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SUBMISSION LODGED IN RESPONSE TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA EXISTING ACTIVITY CENTRES REVIEW

The Shopping Centre Council has lodged a [submission](#) in response to the SA Government's [Existing Activity Centres Policy review Development Plan Amendment \(DPA\) \(Shop Talk 3/9/15\)](#). This DPA follows the exhibition in March this year of a Draft Principles document outlining the Government's intention and approach to reviewing its existing activity centres framework ([Shop Talk 23/5/15](#)). This DPA which, pleasingly, focusses on facilitating development in its preferred locations of activity centres, is coming prior to a second DPA which, disappointingly, will "focus on expanding opportunities for existing and new businesses outside of established activity centres". In general terms, we have offered support to the proposals in this DPA, which include broadening the scope of complying development and standardising car parking rates across in existing activity centres. We have urged the Government to allow sufficient time for the benefits of this DPA to be implemented and assessed prior to progressing with the subsequent 'out of centre' DPA. We have also encouraged the Government to turn its mind to how the release of the second DPA will be managed so planned investment in existing activity centres is not undermined. In its desire to attract investment to SA, the Government should not hard code an unlevel playing field for retail investment into its planning system.

NSW GOVERNMENT TO RELAX INDUSTRIAL ZONES FOR HARDWARE AND GARDEN SUPPLIES

The NSW Government is currently [exhibiting](#) an amendment to the 'Standard Instrument Local Environmental Plan' which seeks to allow 'garden centre' and 'hardware and building supplies' as permissible uses within the IN1 General Industrial, IN2 Light Industrial and B7 Business Park Zones. Described as a reform to "cut red tape" (for a select few), the proposed changes still come in the absence of the NSW Government progressing a comprehensive and consultative discussion with stakeholders regarding retail planning policy. Comments are due on 18 November.

2015 SHOPPING CENTRE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA MARKETING AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to the Sabina Rust Memorial Prize Winner, Sunnybank Plaza, (managed by Retail First and owned by YFG Shopping Centres) for its campaign 'Sunnybank \$2 Food Trail'. Marketing Manager Lisa Smith accepted the cash prize of \$25,000 for the Sabina Rust Memorial Prize, with the campaign also winning the Sales Promotion 'Little Guns' category earlier in the evening. Runner up for the Sabina Rust Memorial Prize was Vicinity Centre's Emporium Melbourne for its campaign 'Reimagined', which was accepted by Marketing Manager Tanya Lunardon. 'Reimagined' also won the Development/Redevelopment Mini/Little Guns category. The Marketing Awards were celebrated at a once again sold-out Gala Dinner on Tuesday 27 October. A full list of winners across all categories - Branding/Repositioning, Digital Initiative, Community, Development/Redevelopment and Sales Promotion - can be found [here](#). Congratulations to all finalists and thank you to all who submitted the record 149 nominations in the awards for such a high standard of campaigns.

SUBMISSION LODGED ON DRAFT RULE CHANGE FOR EMBEDDED ELECTRICITY NETWORKS

A [submission](#) has been lodged in response to the Australian Energy Market Commission's (AEMC) Draft Rule Determination on embedded networks. This rule change was proposed by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) in late 2014. The AEMC's objective in preparing this proposed change to the National Electricity Rules is to "reduce the barriers to embedded network customers accessing offers from electricity retailers in the competitive retail market". The Shopping Centre Council continues to support the objective of the proposed rule change but has raised a number of concerns regarding its implementation, including the possible imposition of capital costs should an existing off-market customer seek to become an on-market customer, and the recoverability of costs associated with the new regulatory framework. The AEMC has outlined that a final rule determination is to be published by 17 December 2015.

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