

# SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2015

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## NSW BOXING DAY TRADING BILL AMENDMENTS TABLED BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Following the NSW Government's recent introduction of the [Retail Trading Amendment Bill](#) into Parliament, the Christian Democratic Party, led by Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile MLC, has proposed a number of amendments to the Bill ([Shop Talk, 22/10/15](#)). This includes the insertion of a provision which would (in the event that the Bill is passed) see the responsible Minister review the operation of the legislation after a three-year period. The Shopping Centre Council has written to Reverend Nile, and other parties represented in the Legislative Council, urging their support for the Bill. We have provided original analysis to these parties to support our views, based on a sample of shopping centres across various jurisdictions and locations that traded on Boxing Day 2014. The analysis highlights that for the sample centres, Boxing Day is a very popular shopping day, with an average 25% increase in customer foot traffic against the December daily average. Boxing Day was also the most popular post-Christmas trading day. We hope that these legislators will support the Bill in recognition that customers and retailers will have increased freedom of choice and flexibility. The Bill is listed for further debate when Parliament resumes on 10 November 2015.

## RETAIL TRADE CONTINUES TO GROW ALBEIT AT A SLOWER RATE THAN PREVIOUSLY RECORDED

The latest release of Retail Trade data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for August 2015 indicates that the overall month-on-month (m-o-m) trend estimate grew by 0.3 per cent. In trend terms, retail turnover increased by 3.7 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y). In seasonally adjusted terms, Retail Turnover increased by 0.4 per cent for the month of September 2015, equal to growth of 0.4 per cent recorded for August 2015, and by 3.7 per cent on a y-o-y basis. The strongest growth was recorded for 'Household goods' retailing on a m-o-m (1.0 per cent) and y-o-y basis (5.8 per cent). The Shopping Centre Council's *ABS Retail Research Note* is available [here](#).

## QLD VALUER-GENERAL ANNOUNCES LGA VALUATION SCHEDULE FOR 2016

The Queensland Valuer-General, Neil Bray, has announced the 40 local government areas (LGAs) to be valued this year. The land valuations determined (as at 1 October 2015) will be issued prior to 31 March 2016 and become effective, for rating and land tax purposes, on 30 June 2016. The LGAs to be valued are listed [here](#) and include Brisbane, the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Gladstone and Mackay. Land within LGAs which are not valued this year maintain the most recent valuations from previous years.

## QLD RETAIL SHOP LEASES AMENDMENT BILL REFERRED TO PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

The Queensland *Retail Shop Leases Amendment Bill 2015*, implementing the recommendations from the review of the Act, has been referred for consideration by the Parliament's Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee ([Shop Talk 15/10/15](#)). This is a fairly standard process for legislation since the Queensland Parliament does not have a Legislative Council. The Committee is due to report on 5 February 2016 and it is expected the Bill will be passed in early 2016. No date has yet been set for the operation of the amendments.

## VICINITY CENTRES EMERGES FROM FEDERATION CENTRES AND NOVION PROPERTY GROUP

The creation of Vicinity Centres, from the merger of Federation Centres and Novion Property Group, became official on 28 October 2015 after the merged group's AGM approved a resolution to change the name to Vicinity Centres.

## EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FOR ICSC RECON IN LAS VEGAS ON 22-25 MAY 2016

Early bird registration is available, until 11 December 2015, for the [International Council of Shopping Centers' RECon in Las Vegas](#), from 22-25 May 2016.

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