

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

THURSDAY 14 APRIL 2016

[SUBSCRIBE HERE](#)

IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE GUIDELINES FOR PLACES OF MASS GATHERING RELEASED

The Australia-New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee (ANZCTC) has released [Improvised Explosive Device Guidelines for Places of Mass Gathering](#). As 'places of mass gathering' – which are characterised as having a large concentration of people on a predictable basis – shopping centres are specifically mentioned throughout the Guidelines. Landlords and retailers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the new material which should be read in conjunction with the [Active Shooter Guidelines for Places of Mass Gathering](#) and the [National Guidelines for the Protection of Places of Mass Gathering from Terrorism](#). The Guidelines have been prepared to "help people who own or operate places of mass gathering to be more aware of the threat that IED incidents pose" and to "provide guidance on the issues and options to consider during risk mitigation and contingency planning activities". The Guidelines provide information on the current threat context and characteristics of IED incidents, and advice on prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. In a [media statement](#) accompanying the release of the Guidelines, the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on Counter-Terrorism, Michael Keenan, noted that the Guidelines were prepared to "guard against the threat of IEDs", while stressing that "they were not in response to any specific threat".

Q'LAND PLANNING BILL RECOMMENDED FOR PASSAGE BY PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

The Queensland Parliament's Infrastructure and Natural Resources Committee has recommended the passage, with minor amendments, of the *Planning Bill 2015* ([Shop Talk 3/12/15](#)). This Bill will establish the framework for a new planning system for Queensland, supported by revamped planning regulations which are proposed to include some elements of the existing Queensland Planning Provisions ([Shop Talk 25/2/16](#)). The Committee also considered planning reform Bills tabled by the Opposition, but has recommended that these not be passed by the Parliament.

SUBMISSION LODGED WITH SENATE INQUIRY INTO GIFT CARDS AND DICK SMITH COLLAPSE

The Shopping Centre Council has lodged a submission with the Senate Economics References Committee on its inquiry into the causes and consequences of the collapse of listed retailers in Australia ([Shop Talk 11/2/16](#)). This inquiry was established at the urging of independent Senator Nick Xenophon in the context of the recent 'collapse' of retailer Dick Smith. The inquiry's Terms of Reference extend to the treatment of gift card holders in the event of external administration and seek feedback on potential additional regulation of gift card schemes, including the introduction of trust accounting requirements and a personal director liability for the value of gift cards purchased. Our submission stresses that the existing regulation of gift cards under existing Acts, including the *Corporations Act*, is sufficient to provide for appropriate consumer protections while maintaining the ability for businesses to run effective and efficient gift card schemes. The submission also notes that any attempt to elevate gift card holders above other creditors in the context of external administration would only displace other creditors. A 2012 review of gift cards by the Commonwealth Consumer Affairs Advisory Council concluded that information is already available to gift card holders in the event of an external administration. The Committee is due to report in mid-May.

NEW \$5 NOTE TO COME INTO CIRCULATION ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2016

The Reserve Bank of Australia has [revealed](#) the artwork for the 'next generation' \$5 bank notes that will come into circulation on 1 September 2016. Existing \$5 notes will remain legal tender. Other note denominations in 'next generation' form will progressively be rolled-out over the coming years. The new note includes updated security features and a tactile element to assist those with a vision-impairment. Landlords should prepare for the change by ensuring that any cash giving/receiving devices, such as car park ticketing machines, can accommodate the note.

[PREVIOUS ISSUES](#)