

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

FRIDAY 21 OCTOBER 2016

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QUEENSLAND TRADING HOURS REVIEW ISSUES PAPER RELEASED FOR COMMENT

The Queensland Government has released [information](#) on their review of the *Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990* ([Shop Talk 1/9/16](#)). The Review's [Issues Paper](#) canvasses a range of reform options, including a deregulated model similar to NSW and Victoria, determination via legislation, and a shift away from the current role of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC). Submissions in response to the Issues Paper are due in mid-November and a final report is due to the Government in December 2016. The Shopping Centre Council has discussed the review with the Government.

NSW PARKING LEVY REVIEW ANNOUNCED

This week, the NSW Government [announced](#) a review of its Parking Space Levy. The levy aims to 'discourage car use' in leviable districts and raises around \$100 million per annum for infrastructure projects. Submissions close on 16 November.

ANALYSIS RELEASED ON IMPACT OF ROGUE PARKERS ON RETAIL BUSINESSES

Parking Australia has released [analysis](#) on the impact of 'car park squatters' on retail businesses. 'Car park squatters' utilise an available car space for a purpose other than that intended. In shopping centres, this can be people using a space for commuting, rather than being a customer of the centre. Parking Australia's results are based on a survey by the National Retail Association in September 2016 of 120 retailers. More than 30% of those surveyed highlighted that motorists are using their parking facilities for another purpose, and around a third believe that it negatively impacts their revenue by 11-20%. Parking Australia has established an Accredited Operator Scheme which seeks to better regulate private parking facilities. The Shopping Centre Council supports the intent of the Scheme which is to ensure shopping centre owners and managers can appropriately manage and enforce their car park terms and conditions.

VICTORIAN RETAIL SMALL BUSINESS REGULATION REVIEW SUBMISSIONS RELEASED

Stakeholder submissions in response to the review of regulation impacting small business retailers ([Shop Talk 7/10/16](#)) have been [published](#). Reinforcing our concern that the process may become a proxy review of the *Retail Leases Act 2003* (driven by perception rather than on specific stakeholder feedback and analysis), as far as we can identify none of the submissions lodged raised concerns regarding retail leasing. The Shopping Centre Council's [submission](#) directly addresses this concern, noting that "stakeholder feedback feels incongruous to the emphasis which has been placed on the Act" in the context of the Review. The Shopping Centre Council will be meeting with Small Business Victoria in coming weeks to discuss our concerns.

ABS FLAGS CHANGES TO THE FREQUENCY OF ECONOMIC INDICATORS: RETAIL TRADE

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has outlined that it "does not have the resources to undertake all the activities that fall within our legislative mandate that our users would like". In its recent [Forward Work Program 2016-17](#) report, Australian Statistician, David Kalisch, stated that "more difficult decisions around prioritisation of statistical products" may be required from 2017-18. The report specifically highlights retail, among others, as one of the statistical products which will be considered in terms of delivery frequency. The ABS indicates that this process will be informed by consultation with stakeholders. The report also highlights that the ABS considers Retail Trade data as a 'Tier 1' component of its work program, which means that it is one of the "statistics that are considered to be the foundation work of a national statistical organisation". 'Tier 1' is second only to 'Tier 0' which are "essential institutional statistical capability and infrastructure required to deliver a quality national statistical service...". The Shopping Centre Council releases analysis of the monthly ABS Retail Trade figures, which can be accessed [here](#).

[PREVIOUS ISSUES](#)