

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER 2016

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A BUMPER 2016 BOXING DAY ANTICIPATED BY LANDLORDS AND RETAILERS

In anticipation of only the second year of liberalised Boxing Day trading in NSW in 2016, this week the Shopping Centre Council partnered with the National Retail Association (NRA) to issue a [media release](#) profiling the success of widespread Boxing Day trading in 2015. Based on a data sample provided by members, close to 1.5 million Sydney-siders visited a shopping centre on Boxing Day in 2015. This means that nearly one third of Sydney's population enjoyed the benefit of the more relaxed approach to Boxing Day trading. Member data also revealed that Boxing Day 2015 was the fourth most popular trading day for customers over the Christmas period and that Boxing Day foot-traffic was over 25% higher than the average traffic over the Christmas period. The NSW Treasurer, Gladys Berejiklian, also issued a [release](#) which notes that the Government anticipates an even more successful year in 2016. The Treasurer also took the opportunity to remind retailers that employees must freely elect to work on Boxing Day, much like previous advice provided to members that retailers cannot be forced to trade ([Shop Talk 25/11/16](#)). Both the Shopping Centre Council and the NRA will be monitoring Boxing Day trading in 2016 so we can provide positive input to the scheduled review of the liberalised trading regime in 2017.

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT RELEASES COMMUNITY SAFETY STATEMENT

Victorian Premier, the Hon Daniel Andrews MP, along with the Chief Commissioner of Police, Graham Ashton AM, this week released a [Community Safety Statement](#), which outlines a comprehensive range of policies, priorities and new investment regarding safety. This includes giving extra powers to police and the justice system to address recidivist offenders, including youth offenders. Melbourne has experienced an escalation in criminal activity, including car-jackings and break-and-enters, which has affected the retail sector. The Statement will be subject to an annual review and update process.

GROUPS LOBBYING AGAINST GST ON LOW VALUE IMPORTED GOODS

It has been reported that the global CEO of eBay, Devin Wenig, has made direct representations to the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, to lobby against the specific 2016-17 Budget initiative to deliver a level playing field by requiring GST to be paid on certain imported low value goods and services from 1 July 2017. The Shopping Centre Council (and other retail stakeholders) have long urged action to address the low value threshold GST loop-hole and strongly welcomed the Budget announcement in May ([Shop Talk 5/5/16](#)). The period for submissions in response to the draft Bill to close the loop-hole closed last week. The Shopping Centre Council lodged a submission in support of the proposed legislation. It is hoped that the Government holds their nerve on this issue, and doesn't cave in to pleas to significantly amend or water-down the proposed intention of the legislation.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO VALUE-CAPTURE TABLES REPORT IN PARLIAMENT

Last week, the Parliamentary Inquiry into 'transport connectivity', which had a substantial focus on value-capture funding, tabled its [final report](#). In essence, the cat is now out of the bag on this so-called innovative approach to infrastructure funding. Across a range of recommendations, the Committee suggests that value-capture funding be further investigated. This includes as a condition of Federal funding where a value uplift results from a combination of rezonings and new transport infrastructure. The recommendations seem to treat value-capture as being independent of other tax revenue generated from a property asset, or indeed that so-called value uplift generated from new transport infrastructure can be isolated and captured against other external factors. There are no recommendations that property owners would be compensated as a result of a value-decrease from transport infrastructure. The Shopping Centre Council appeared at a public hearing on the inquiry earlier this year.

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