

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

FRIDAY 30 JUNE 2017

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VICTORIAN VALUATION OF LAND ACT CHANGES: CONSIDERATION DEFERRED

Last week, the Victorian Parliament deferred proposed legislative changes to the *Valuation of Land Act* which would have centralised statutory valuations with the Valuer-General and facilitated the introduction of annual statutory valuations from 2019 onwards ([Shop Talk 5/5/17](#) & [19/5/17](#)). The changes, which faced [strong opposition](#) from the local government sector, were omitted from the *State Taxation Act Amendment Bill 2017*, with the Treasurer, Tim Pallas, noting in his comments to the Parliament that consideration of the relevant changes will be deferred until the Spring sitting of Parliament and that work will be ongoing with the local government sector on the proposed reforms. The Shopping Centre Council has made representations to the Government on this issue to ensure a smooth transition to a centralised, annual model of statutory valuation once implemented.

LEGISLATIVE BASIS OF PHARMACY LOCATION RULES TO BE MAINTAINED

Last week's release of the [Interim Report](#) for the review of pharmacy remuneration and regulation has drawn attention to a decision communicated via the 2017-8 Federal Budget ([Shop Talk 12/5/17](#)) to continue current pharmacy location rules. While the [Terms of Reference](#) for the review required the review panel to, among other things, consider "the appropriate regulation of pharmacy distribution, including the role of Pharmacy Local Rules in supporting access to medicines in Australia...", the Interim Report provides the following clarification: "...given the Government's recent commitment to continue the current location rules, the Panel considers that its options to replace the current location rules are no longer immediately relevant to this Review. While they are included in the Interim Report for the sake of transparency around the Panel's consideration of the issue, they will not be presented in the Final Report". The commitment the Government provided via the Budget rests on the proposed repeal of an existing sunset clause in the *National Health Act 1953* relating to the location rules.

VICTORIAN SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION LAUNCHES NEW 3-YEAR BUSINESS STRATEGY

To coincide with the commencement of the Victorian Small Business Commission from 1 July 2017, headed by Small Business Commissioner Judy O'Connell, a new [3-year business strategy](#) was launched this week for the Commission which outlines proposed actions across the areas of: (1) advocacy, (2) engagement, (3) monitoring and (4) dispute resolution. The Shopping Centre Council attended the launch of the strategy, at a function opened by the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade, Phil Dalidakis, and looks forward to ongoing engagement with the Commissioner.

QUEENSLAND ELECTRICITY AMENDMENT LEGISLATION TABLED IN PARLIAMENT

The Queensland Minister for Energy, Mark Bailey, has tabled the [Electricity and Other Legislation \(Batteries and Premium Feed-In Tariff\) Amendment Bill 2017](#) in the Parliament. Among other matters, the Bill makes amendments to enable alignment and the implementation of new national regulatory arrangements, made under the National Electricity Rules and which commenced on 1 December 2017, to better facilitate access to competition for embedded network customers. The Bill has been referred to the Parliament's Public Works and Utilities Committee for consideration, with submissions due to its [inquiry](#) by 5 July.

2017 SCCA MARKETING AWARDS: NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2017 SCCA Marketing Awards. Nominations will close on Monday 7 August. Please see the [2017 Call for Entries Booklet](#) for more details, including the judging criteria and entry guidelines. More information is also available on the Awards website. This year the SCCA Marketing Awards Gala Dinner will be held on Wednesday 25 October 2017 from 6:00pm at Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf. Tickets will be available for purchase on Tuesday 8 August 2017 from the Awards [website](#).

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