

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER 2018

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S TRADING HOURS REFORM BILL DEFEATED IN PARLIAMENT

The South Australian [Retail Trading Bill 2018](#) was voted down in the Legislative Council last week ([Shop Talk 6/7/18](#)). The reforms in the Bill - a 'deregulation' of trading hours - were an election commitment made by the Marshall Government in the lead up to the March 2018 election ([Shop Talk 5/6/18](#)). Opposing arguments focused on supporting independent, 'small' supermarkets and local jobs, and protecting retail workers from working unsociable/extended hours. These generally aligned with the 'Stop Deregulation Adelaide' campaign run by the independent supermarket sector ([Shop Talk 6/7/18](#)). In a speech to Parliament, Treasurer Rob Lucas indicated that the Government would take the matter to the next election, saying "...today is the start of a long, relentless, continuous campaign leading through to 2022".

FEDERAL GIFT CARD BILL PASSES PARLIAMENT; SOUTH AUSTRALIAN REGIME ALSO ON THE WAY

The [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Gift Cards\) Bill 2018](#) passed the Federal Parliament last week paving the way for the introduction of a national regime to regulate gift card expiration dates and post purchase fees ([Shop Talk 28/9/18](#)). The law is proposed to apply to gift cards supplied on or after 1 November 2019. The Bill requires that most gift cards be redeemable for at least three years from the date supplied and that expiry information is to be displayed prominently on the card itself. [Draft regulations](#) to underpin the regime are now on exhibition. Also last week, a Bill to introduce a state-based regime passed the South Australian Parliament ([Shop Talk 15/6/18](#)). This regime largely aligns with the existing regime in NSW ([Shop Talk 29/3/18](#)). In a related [media statement](#), the South Australian Attorney-General, Vickie Chapman, noted that "...we will be actively communicating and working with retailers and other stakeholder groups to support a smooth transition to these new laws before the end of the year, giving consumers peace of mind ahead of the festive season". It is as yet unclear how the national regime will interact with the NSW and SA regimes.

TREASURY LAWS AMENDMENT BILL PASSES PARLIAMENT

Last week, the [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Australian Consumer Law Review\) Bill 2018](#) passed the Federal Parliament ([Shop Talk 25/5/18](#)). The Bill, among other things, extends unconscionable conduct protections to publicly listed companies and provides for investigative powers with regard to possible unfair contract terms.

NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES INTRODUCTION OF GST LVT

The New Zealand Government has [announced](#) that GST is proposed to be applied to low value goods purchased online from 1 October of next year. The proposed changes would require offshore sellers to register, collect and return GST on goods valued at or below \$1,000. The NZ Minister of Revenue, Stuart Nash, stated that "this measure aims to help level the playing field and improve the integrity of our tax system".

QUEENSLAND VALUER GENERAL ANNOUNCES 2019 RATEABLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

Queensland's Valuer-General has [announced](#) the 18 local government areas that will be included in the 2019 Annual Valuation Program. These include Brisbane, Noosa and the Sunshine Coast.

2018 SCCA MARKETING AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED: CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

Congratulations to all the [winners](#) at the 2018 SCCA Marketing Awards! Winners were announced at last week's Gala Dinner at Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf. Special congratulations to the 2018 Sabina Rust Memorial Prize winner for Campaign of the Year, 'The Indro Games' by AMP's Indooroopilly Shopping Centre, as well as the runner-up, 'Unicorn Festival' by GPT's Melbourne Central. Each of the winners in the Community category will receive \$5,000 from the Shopping Centre Council to donate to a charity or community organisation that is important to the shopping centre and its community. Thank you to the Award sponsors for making this year's event possible.

PREVIOUS ISSUES