

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

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SA RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL LEASES BILL PASSES LOWER HOUSE

The South Australian *Retail and Commercial Leases (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2017* this week passed the Lower House of the Parliament. The member leading the Opposition's contribution to the debate, the Shadow Attorney-General, Vickie Chapman, noted the Opposition supported the substance of the Bill and acknowledged that it came following the comprehensive review of the Act over a number of years ([Shop Talk 23/9/16](#)). This context, and the proactive role of the South Australian Small Business Commissioner, John Chapman, in engaging with stakeholders following the tabling of the Bill in July ([Shop Talk 14/7/17](#)), including the Shopping Centre Council, resulted in the debate being relatively brief and procedural. Interestingly, the Minister for Small Business, Martin Hamilton-Smith, moved a number of amendments to the Government's own Bill having received feedback on the drafting of some provisions, including regarding the application of the Act to bodies corporate, and their subsidiaries, which are listed on foreign exchanges (as per recent changes in both Victoria and Western Australia). As evidence of the anticipated, and speedy, replication of recent reforms to the NSW *Retail Leases Act 1994* in other jurisdictions ([Shop Talk 23/6/17](#)), there was little mention in the debate of what is otherwise a relatively significant reform, being the introduction of a requirement on a landlord to return a bank guarantee within 2 months of a lessee completing their obligations under the lease. This reform also comes with a penalty in the event of non-compliance. The Bill will now pass to the Upper House.

2017 SCCA MARKETING AWARDS GALA DINNER TICKETS HAVE SOLD OUT

The 2017 SCCA Marketing Awards Gala Dinner, which will be held in Sydney on 25 October 2017 at Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf, is now sold out! All winners and runners-up will be announced on the night. For those unable to attend, the full list of finalists, winners and runners-up will be published on the Awards [website](#) the following day.

REVIEW INTO THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SYSTEM ANNOUNCED

Last week, the Western Australian Minister for Commerce and Industrial Relations, Bill Johnston MLA, [announced](#) a review into the Western Australian industrial relations system. The review (which was an election commitment of the newly elected Labor Government) will be the first comprehensive review of the state's industrial relations system since 2002. Appointed to lead the review is Mark Ritter SC, a barrister and former Acting President of the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission (WAIRC). Mr Ritter will be assisted by Stephen Price MLA in undertaking the review. The [Terms of Reference](#) are extensive and consider a range of issues, including the structure and powers of the WAIRC, minimum conditions of employment, equal remuneration, as well as devising a process for updating the state award for private sector employees. It will also comment on statutory compliance and enforcement mechanisms within the industrial relations system. It is worth noting that the review does not intend to refer any industrial relations issues to the Commonwealth. Minister Johnston has said the Government is committed to modernising the system and the review "...will provide a blueprint on how best to do this". Consultation closes on 24 November 2017, with the final report to be tabled within four months.

QLD AUDIT OFFICE COMMENCES AUDIT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT RATES AND CHARGES

The Queensland Audit Office has [commenced](#) consultation on their audit into 'managing local government rates and charges'. The audit is the next of their audits of local government following the most recent review into 'forecasting long-term financial sustainability of local government'. This was also subject of a parliamentary inquiry, to which the SCCA made a submission. The Audit Office has asked for the SCCA's feedback, specifically on the impact the current rating system in Queensland has on our members' assets. The Audit Office aims to have the final report tabled in the Queensland Parliament by March 2018.

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