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QUEENSLAND SITE VALUATION PROJECT IS NOW UNDERWAY

As part of the resolution of the dispute over land valuation methodology in Queensland ([Shop Talk 12/3/10](#)) the Premier, Anna Bligh, insisted that the State would in future move to a system of 'site value' as the method for valuing land for land tax and council rates purposes. Queensland is the only State that still uses an 'unimproved value' methodology. Importantly the Premier also promised that the move "will exclude the valuation of the business, rather than the land, in its approach to goodwill, leases and other items which are derived from business effort."

Ms Bligh has also said she wants legislation to effect this change in Parliament in September. The Government has now appointed Pricewaterhouse Coopers as the consultant for the project and has also appointed a Valuations Reform Reference Group, which comprises a range of relevant industry associations, including the Shopping Centre Council and the Property Council. The Premier also announced, as part of the settlement of the dispute, that Queensland would re-establish the position of Valuer-General, which had previously been abolished. Recruitment for this position is now underway and it is expected that an appointment will be made in June.

BILL MARMION APPOINTED MINISTER FOR COMMERCE IN WA

Following the resignation of the WA Treasurer and Minister for Commerce, Troy Buswell, Bill Marmion, formerly a parliamentary secretary, has been appointed Minister for Commerce with responsibility for trading hours matters and retail tenancy issues. The Premier, Colin Barnett, has for the time being assumed the Treasury responsibilities.

ICSC CONFERENCE ON CENTRE COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGIES

The International Council of Shopping Centers has organised a two-day workshop in Singapore on 17-18 May on 'Communication Strategies and Techniques' for the shopping centre industry. Further details of the [program](#) and booking details are available [here](#).

ICSC ASIA EXPO REBRANDED AS RECON ASIA IN NOVEMBER 2010

The International Council of Shopping Centers has rebranded its Asia Expo as RECon Asia. This brings it into line with the rebranding of the annual ISCS conference and leasing expo as [RECon](#) (to be held this year on 23-25 May.) The 2010 RECon Asia will be held in Shanghai on 7-9 November 2010 and will include the popular ICSC Asia Shopping Centre Awards. We will advise on further details.

NATIONAL RETAIL ASSOCIATION YOUNG RETAILER OF THE YEAR

[Entries](#) for the 2010 [National Retail Association Young Retailer of the Year](#) competition close on 25 June. The award ceremony will be held at the Sydney Harbour Marriott on 28 July 2010. The Shopping Centre Council is a sponsor of these awards, which recognise and encourage young achievers in the retail industry.

'IN THE CUSTOMER'S SHOES' RETAILER EDUCATION IN PERTH

The Retail Traders Association of WA is conducting an educational workshop for retailers, '*In the Customers Shoes*', designed to achieve superior customer service and sales performance. The first workshop will be held in Perth on 19 May and it will be repeated on 22 September. For further details and bookings contact the RTA on (08) 9365 7791 or email: rta@cciwa.com.