



Friday 7 May 2010

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY TO RECEIVE INCREASED ATTENTION

The Rudd Government will increase its focus on energy efficiency policy as a result of its recent deferral of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS). The [Prime Minister's Task Group on Energy Efficiency](#) will report by mid-2010 on "energy efficiency mechanisms that can deliver a step change improvement in energy efficiency by 2020". The Task Group will complement the Government's existing [National Strategy on Energy Efficiency](#) which, for the retail sector, proposes a "mandatory disclosure" scheme for shopping centres to be investigated in 2012. This could result in a [NABERS Retail](#) rating being disclosed as part of any sale or lease documentation or advertisement ([Shop Talk 4/12/09](#)). We hope that the Task Group makes recommendations to remove barriers and improve the business case for energy efficiency investment. Given that access to capital remains a barrier to energy efficiency investment, and to make it more competitive with other investments, we recently met with the new [Australian Carbon Trust](#) to seek eligibility for shopping centres under its \$50 million Energy Efficiency Trust. While the details are not yet finalised, the Trust could provide grants for energy efficiency upgrades (similar to the successful [Green Building Fund](#) for office buildings, which has allocated \$60 million to 150 projects since October 2009), or interest-free capital funding which could be paid back through ongoing energy savings.

CASUAL MALL LICENSING CODE OF PRACTICE NOW REVISED

A meeting of the Code Administration Committee of the *Casual Mall Licensing Code of Practice* was held in January and, as a result, some minor administrative changes were made to the Code. The revised Code of Practice is available [here](#). The Code began operation on 1 January 2008 following authorisation by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. The Code Administration Committee noted that no disputes had been notified during the first two years of operation of the Code, which has been endorsed by the Shopping Centre Council of Australia and the Property Council of Australia and the leading retailer associations.

LATEST ISSUE OF URBIS RETAIL PERSPECTIVES NOW AVAILABLE

The April issue of *Urbis Retail Perspectives* is available [here](#). This issue includes a thorough dissection of the latest ABS retail sales data; an analysis of the state of the Australian economy; and the state of play in the global shopping centre industry.

PCA WA RETAIL PROPERTY CONFERENCE TO BE HELD ON 16 JUNE

The Property Council, WA Division, is holding its 2010 Retail Property Conference on Wednesday 16 June at the Hyatt Regency in Perth. The theme of the conference is 'Centres at the crossroads' and will include sessions on the new Activity Centres Policy framework and on regulation and competition in the retail property sector. Further information and registration details are available [here](#).

PCA Q'LAND BREAKFAST ON CHANGES TO LAND VALUATION LAW

The Property Council, Queensland Division, is holding a breakfast in Brisbane on Friday 14 May to discuss the recent dispute over land valuation methodology and the forthcoming legislation to change from 'unimproved value' to 'site value' as the method for valuing land for land tax and rating purposes. Speakers include consulting valuer, Rodney Brett, who has been involved in the dispute over methodology for many years, and John Woolley, Property Services Advisor to the Ranbury Management Group (and a former Valuer General). Further information and booking details are available [here](#).