



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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[Archive](#)

WA ACTIVITY CENTRES POLICY ENTERS ITS FINAL STAGE

The WA Government last week released the [Final Draft Activity Centres Policy for Perth and Peel](#), which once finalised, will replace the existing *Statement of Planning Policy 4.2 – Metropolitan Centres Policy* ([Shop Talk 4/9/09](#)). The new policy will remove the existing retail floor space caps which have been in place since 1991. These caps have drastically limited retail floor space and diversity in Perth's activity centres. For example, "strategic regional centres" have been limited to 80,000m² of retail space. The SCCA welcomes the release of the final policy to underpin Perth's sustainable growth. We have been actively engaged in its development, including our [submission](#) on the draft policy when it was released for public comment in June last year. The policy will contribute to increased retail investment and diversity, however we hope it doesn't get bogged down with unnecessary local planning costs and delays in its implementation. The final policy is due to be released at the end of August as part of the release of *Directions 2031*, the spatial framework for Perth and Peel.

WA JOINS OTHER STATES TO ADOPT INDEPENDENT PLANNING PANELS

The WA Government recently passed [legislation](#) to modify the *Planning and Development Act 2005* to establish Development Assessment Panels (DAPs). The new DAPs will have a majority of independent experts to provide increased certainty for decisions on major development proposals (a future Regulation will contain the project trigger threshold). The DAPs are scheduled to commence in mid-2011, and as part of national planning reforms, will be similar in-principle to Joint Regional Planning Panels (JRPPs) in NSW, DAPs in South Australia and planning panels in Victoria.

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING NATIONAL LAW BILL NOW IN THE VICTORIAN PARLIAMENT

The *Occupational Licensing National Law Bill 2010* was introduced into the Victorian Parliament on 10 August. Once this Bill is passed in Victoria, the same Bill will then be passed by all other States and Territories. Once this occurs the legal framework will then be in place to implement the system of national licensing (to replace the current separate state and territory licensing regimes) for a range of occupations. Property agents (real estate agents) are among the first wave of occupations to be included in the national occupational licensing scheme. The details of the national license for property agents are currently being considered by a national committee which will report to the COAG National Licensing Taskforce. It is expected this national license will begin operation in July 2012. Details of the Bill are available [here](#).

NSW GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING MEMBERS FOR THE ADT RETAIL LEASES DIVISION

The NSW Government has [advertised](#) for expressions of interest from qualified people for appointment as part-time, non-judicial members of the Retail Leases Division of the NSW Administrative Decisions Tribunal. This is the body responsible under the NSW *Retail Leases Act* for the arbitration of retail tenancy disputes which cannot be resolved by mediation. The appointments are for a period of up to three years. Details of how to apply are [here](#).

RETAIL TRADERS ASSOCIATION OF WA BUSINESS BREAKFAST WITH IAN MCLEOD

The Retail Traders Association of WA will host a Business Breakfast on 16 September. Ian McLeod, Managing Director of Coles, will address the breakfast and speak on the Coles Story. Click [here](#) to register.