



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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[Archive](#)

SUBMISSION ARGUES FOR URGENT Q'LD INFRASTRUCTURE CHARGES REFORM

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia has lodged a [submission](#) with the Queensland Government on its [Interim Report on Infrastructure Charges Reform](#). Although the report is light on detail for retail development charges, we have argued for urgent reform, given that Queensland's infrastructure charges are astonishingly high, higher than other states, and continuing to trend upwards. Infrastructure charges are an important economic reform for the development and construction sector, and are having a direct negative impact on the viability and progress of a number of major shopping centre developments across the state. We have identified a list of specific projects with a total development value of over \$2 billion that the government has an opportunity to unlock from unreasonable charges. Transport related charges make up a significant component of the problem. The [Infrastructure Charges Taskforce](#), comprising government and non-government representatives, which is leading the reform, will provide its final advice to the Government early in the New Year.

PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION TO INQUIRE INTO THE AUSTRALIAN RETAIL INDUSTRY

The Federal Government has [announced](#) a Productivity Commission inquiry into the structure, performance and efficiency of the retail sector. The inquiry will include consideration of the impact of on-line shopping and the operation of the \$1,000 threshold on GST-free imports. The Government has also announced it will launch a compliance campaign to ensure the GST and customs concession for imports is not being abused or exploited. The terms of reference of the inquiry are [here](#). The Government has also [released](#) a recent report by Access Economics on *Household E-Commerce Activity and Trends in Australia*.

EXEMPTIONS PROPOSED FOR ELECTRICITY ON-SELLING WITHIN SHOPPING CENTRES

The Australian Energy Regulator (AER) has released a [Consultation Paper](#) and [Draft Guideline](#) for comment (due 4/2/11), which outline revised draft exemptions for needing an authorisation to on-sell electricity, including within shopping centres ([Shop Talk 13/8/10](#)). The AER has made some welcome changes to its previous proposed approach, and we will be analysing these changes in further detail, including the proposed exemptions that relate to shopping centres (Classes D6 and R1), as part of our submission.

AUSTRALIAN CONSUMER LAW BEGINS OPERATION ON 1 JANUARY 2011

All states and territories have now passed necessary legislation to enact the new Australian Consumer Law. The ACL, which begins operation on 1 January 2011, replaces 20 pieces of legislation with one, nationally consistent, consumer protection regime across Australia. Further information on the ACL is available at www.consumerlaw.gov.au.

PROPERTY COUNCIL VICTORIA AND NSW RETAIL OUTLOOK 2011 IN FEBRUARY

The Property Councils in Victoria and NSW are holding their Retail Outlook 2011 events in February 2011. Click [here](#) for further details and to register for the Melbourne event on 10 February and [here](#) for the Sydney event on 16 February.

PROPERTY COUNCIL VICTORIA SEMINAR ON RETAIL LEASES ACT IN FEBRUARY

The PCA Victoria is hosting an educational seminar on 22 February 2011 on the Victorian *Retail Leases Act* to help manage and lease shopping centres. Further information and booking details [here](#).