



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

Thursday 19 May 2011

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PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION OUTLINES SENSIBLE PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS

The Productivity Commission has released its [Final Report](#) on its [Benchmarking Report into Planning, Zoning and Development Assessment](#) ([Shop Talk 7/4/11](#), [3/3/11](#) & [10/9/10](#)). The report has a specific section (Chapter 8) on retail competition. While there are some sections of the report we disagree with, the Commission has delivered a reasonably balanced report, with a sensible set of 'leading practices' to better support retail competition in the planning system. This includes one leading practice focused on activity centres, which highlights the need for less prescriptive zones and allowable uses, emphasising this would facilitate "new retail (and business) formats to locate in existing business zones without necessitating rezonings and other changes to council plans to accommodate various business models". This recommendation effectively underlines what we have long argued: that activity centres should remain as the foundation to metropolitan planning but there should be no zoning barriers for any retail format. The report also highlights there is no systematic problem with the activity centres policy approach requiring significant structural change. Based on the report's own findings, and SCCA's analysis which identified supermarket expansions within activity centres, the Commission noted that "the expansion activities of the supermarket groups, combined with estimates of retail grocery floorspace per person that are within ranges generally considered to be adequate are, on the whole, not indicative of an unduly limited supply of sites for retail activity within centres. That said, there may be particular local markets which are more constrained than others". The Commission suggested other leading practices to better promote retail competition, including more streamlined development assessment and ensuring that competition between businesses is not a valid planning consideration in determining development applications. These findings will now be considered through the COAG process later this year.

LORNA JANE NAMED THE INAUGURAL AMP CAPITAL/BRW RETAILER OF THE YEAR

Lorna Jane, the fitness wear chain, was named Outstanding Retailer of the Year at the very successful AMP Capital Shopping Centres/BRW Retailer of the Year Awards in Sydney on Wednesday evening. A profile of the chain's founder, Lorna Jane Clarkson, and profiles of other category winners on the night, are in this week's (May 19-25) *BRW* Magazine. A copy of AMP Capital Shopping Centre's *The Business of Retail Report*, just released, can be downloaded [here](#).

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY TRADING ON MONDAY 13 JUNE 2011

The Queen's Birthday public holiday is celebrated on Monday 13 June, except in WA (celebrated this year on 28 October). This is a trading day in all jurisdictions except Adelaide and in the six-day trading areas in regional Queensland. Monday 6 June is Foundation Day in WA and is a non-trading day in Perth, outside the special trading precincts.

CHADSTONE WEST MALL WINS PCA'S BEST SHOPPING CENTRE DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Congratulations to CFS Retail Property Trust whose [Chadstone West Mall \(Vic\)](#) won the Laing O'Rourke award for *Best Shopping Centre Development* at the PCA's Innovation and Excellence Awards. CFSGAM's Rockingham Shopping Centre (WA) was a finalist.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE SOON FOR THE NRA YOUNG RETAILER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Applications for the National Retail Association's *Young Retailer of the Year Award* close on Friday 27 May. The Shopping Centre Council is a sponsor of these awards. Click [here](#) for entry details.

DIRECTIONAL INSIGHT'S LATEST EDITION OF E-DIRECTIONS IS NOW AVAILABLE

The latest edition of *eDirections* is now out, with information on the latest *Consumer Shopping Benchmarks 2011*. Subscribe for free [here](#).