



# SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE  
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

Thursday 16 June 2011

[Archive](#)

## SCCA LODGES SECOND SUBMISSION TO PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION INQUIRY

The Shopping Centre Council has lodged a [second submission](#) to the Productivity Commission inquiry into the economic structure and performance of the Australian retail industry. This submission deals exclusively with the low value importation threshold (LVIT) for imported goods. Goods with a value less than \$1,000 can be imported without payment of GST or, where applicable, customs duty. Our submission argues the current LVIT, which is far in excess of that which applies in comparable countries, creates a competitive disadvantage for Australian retailers and is inhibiting them from making the transition to an e-commerce world. Our submission also addresses the arguments which have been put forward for maintaining the threshold at its current level and concludes there is no valid justification for perpetuating this competitive disadvantage and the Federal Government must act to ensure competitive neutrality in the taxation treatment of domestic and non-domestic purchases. A copy of the Shopping Centre Council's first submission to the Productivity Commission is available [here](#).

## NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL OF SHOPPING CENTRES RETAIL CONFERENCE 2011

The New Zealand Council of Shopping Centres will host its annual Retail Conference in Auckland on 12 July 2011. Presentations will cover the NZ market outlook, retail design, retail research and brand management. Click [here](#) and go to the 'July' section for further information and registration.

## LATEST SHOPPING CENTRE DIRECTORY FOR VICTORIA AND TASMANIA NOW OUT

The Property Council of Australia has released the 2010 *Shopping Centre Directory for Victoria and Tasmania*. Please click [here](#) to order your copy.

## QUEENSLAND MAJOR PROJECTS OFFICE TO UNLOCK SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT

The Queensland Government announced the establishment of a [Major Projects Office](#) as part of this week's [2011-12 State Budget](#) to facilitate the assessment of major development projects, including retail projects. The Deputy Premier, the Hon Paul Lucas, highlighted in his media release that "the MPO will be a 'one stop shop' that works with proponents to guide economically significant projects... through the planning process". The MPO was first raised as a reform option at Premier Bligh's [Building Revival Forum](#) held in Brisbane on 12 April ([Shop Talk 14/4/11](#)). This is a welcome announcement with a strong mandate, particularly given the range of major retail projects that would benefit from facilitation due to excessive development conditions that currently make them unfeasible. Currently, developers that hit a brick wall have nowhere to go to present their case and facilitate an outcome, particularly to ensure a whole-of-government approach is being applied, rather than single issue agencies holding up development. Hopefully the MPO will represent a much needed turning point for commercial construction in Queensland. The MPO is scheduled to commence on 1 July and the Government will be undertaking consultation ahead of its establishment. A copy of our media release is available [here](#).

## RETAIL WORLD 2011 MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY EVENT, SYDNEY 27-29 JUNE

A reminder that the [Retail World Management & Technology](#) conference, with over 40 speakers, will be held in Sydney on 27-29 June. The conference is divided into three streams, 'Management', 'Technology' and 'Sustainability'. There is also a third day, which needs to be separately booked, on 'E-Retailing and Multi-Channel Retailing' with an array of international and Australian speakers on this vital topic.