



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

Thursday 21 July 2011

[Archive](#)

WA GOVT RELEASES OPTIONS PAPER ON ACCESS TO RETAIL LEASE INFORMATION

The Western Australian Government has released an [Options Paper](#) for improving access to information about retail leases in WA. This follows the Position Paper last year ([Shop Talk 15/10/10](#)) proposing a shopping centre lease register. The Government subsequently advised that there was limited support among industry stakeholders – including, importantly, from retailers – for such a register. (The Government is learning that the enthusiasm of some retailer association officials for greater lease information is often not matched by their members, who regard this as commercial-in-confidence.) The Options Paper gives three options for discussion: increased lease access by valuers; a public lease register; and mandatory registration on land title. Submissions close on 19 August.

SCCA SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED NSW CENTRE DESIGN GUIDELINES

The Shopping Centre Council has lodged a submission to the NSW Department of Planning on its [Draft Centres Design Guidelines](#) ([Shop Talk, 10/3/11](#)). An urban designer's utopia, the Guidelines do a disservice to a balanced discussion on good design. They go well beyond what could be reasonably considered to be 'design principles' and intervene in retail fundamentals such as tenancy use, mix and size, while not even paying lip service to commercial viability. The authors also present a one-sided perspective of 'good design', with ill-informed harsh words for 'traditional shopping centres', and a clear preference for new-urbanism or main street principles. While these principles are supported, they should not be regarded as one-size-fits-all. As a senior industry official said: "If we can't lease it, they will end up with empty main streets". Good design must always be encouraged, but the Department must acknowledge that there's usually more than one approach, and it should not be imposed through planning guidelines.

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT ADVERTISES FOR A BUSINESS COMMISSIONER

The Queensland Government has advertised (under <https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au>) for a position of 'Business Commissioner'. This position appears to have much broader responsibilities than the positions of Small Business Commissioner, which have been created in Victoria, WA and NSW and is under consideration in SA ([Shop Talk 7/7/11](#) & [31/3/11](#)).

ICSC ASIA PACIFIC SHOPPING CENTRE AWARDS NOMINATIONS CLOSE 2 AUGUST

Nominations for the International Council of Shopping Centers Asia Pacific Shopping Centre Awards close on 2 August. Click [here](#) for details of the categories and entry details. The awards ceremony will be held during the [ICSC RECon Asia](#) to be held in Shanghai on 2-4 November 2011.

PROPERTY COUNCIL COURSES ON THE RETAIL LEASES ACT IN MELBOURNE

An introduction course to the Victorian *Retail Leases Act* will be conducted by PCA in Melbourne on 23 August and an advanced course will be held on 13 September. Click [here](#) for details and to register for the first course and [here](#) for the second.

DIRECTIONAL INSIGHT'S 2011 CONSUMER BENCHMARKS FOR SHOPPING CENTRES

Directional Insights' latest newsletter is available [here](#) and this issue reports on its 2011 Australian Shopping Centre Consumer Benchmarks, which is free to download.

CCIWA SMART SEMINARS FOR RETAILERS ON 26 JULY AND 9 AUGUST

Further workshops for retailers will be held in Perth on 26 July ('Smart Branding') and on 9 August ('Art of Retail'). Click [here](#) for details and bookings.