



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

Thursday 18 August 2011

[Archive](#)

IPART SEEKS TO SIGNIFICANTLY RAISE WATER AND SEWERAGE CHARGES

The NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) has released a [Discussion Paper](#) to review price structures for metropolitan water utilities such as Sydney Water and Hunter Water. IPART's proposals are cause for significant concern, given they could result in massive cost increases for shopping centres, despite no material change in any aspect of the network, including water metering, demand, physical or legal characteristics of property or a water utility's cost or level of service. One SCCA member has calculated that current water and sewerage service charges could go from \$10,000 to \$135,000. Another's charges could go from \$3,500 to \$330,000 (no, that's not a typo). SCCA is challenging the proposals and continuing discussions with IPART. A copy of our submission is [here](#). IPART's final report is due on 28 October.

US CONGRESS INTRODUCES MAIN STREET FAIRNESS BILL TO COLLECT SALES TAXES

The US Congress has introduced a [Main Street Fairness Bill](#) which, if passed, will require online retailers to collect state sales tax as physical retailers are required to do. Amazon has supported the Bill. Until now a US Supreme Court ruling has allowed online retailers to escape paying state sales taxes unless they have a physical presence (such as a warehouse) in that state ([Shop Talk 9/6/11](#)). As a result around \$12 billion in sales taxes has gone uncollected. The CEO of the International Council of Shopping Centers, Mike Kercheval, in supporting the Bill, argued "low-cost technology exists to enable retailers to calculate the amount of sales tax owed on internet purchases. If brick-and-mortar retailers collect and remit taxes on internet purchases, then internet retailers can and should". The same argument surely applies to Australia and the GST on overseas internet purchases.

RETAIL 2011 EXPO AND CONFERENCE IN MELBOURNE FROM 13-15 SEPTEMBER

Retail 2011 is at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from 13-15 September and will feature 20 speakers and panel discussions. Click [here](#) for the program, to exhibit or to register.

LATEST SHOPPING CENTRE DIRECTORY FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA IS NOW OUT

The Property Council has released the 2011 *Shopping Centre Directory for Western Australia* with a comprehensive listing and details of all shopping centres in WA. Click [here](#) to order.

PROPERTY COUNCIL RELEASES LATEST NATIONAL RETAIL BENCHMARKS

The latest benchmarks of shopping centre operating costs have been released. Click [here](#) to order the national benchmarks or the benchmarks for [NSW](#), [QLD](#), [VIC](#), [WA](#).

PROPERTY COUNCIL NZ RELEASES LATEST OPERATING BENCHMARKS

The Property Council of New Zealand has released its latest edition of Shopping Centre Operating Expenses Benchmarks. To purchase a copy, please email sara-jane@propertynz.co.nz.

ICSC CENTERBUILD CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN PHOENIX NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

The International Council of Shopping Center's CentreBuild Conference 'Go RetailCentric' will be held in Phoenix, Arizona from 29 November to 2 December 2011. This is the premier conference on shopping centre and mixed use design, development and construction trends. View the program [here](#) and registration details [here](#).