



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

Thursday 29 September 2011

[Archive](#)

NSW REVIEW OF PLANNING SYSTEM NEEDS TO FOCUS ON IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

The NSW Government, honouring its election commitment, has embarked on a significant [review of the planning system](#), with a focus on the principal legislation: the [Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979](#). The review team, headed by former Government Ministers, the Hon Tim Moore and the Hon Ron Dyer, is currently consulting extensively. The Shopping Centre Council met with the review team last month. While much of the focus has been on the Act itself (and its 'age'), we believe it would be remiss of the Government to ignore the fact that a lot of planning system issues lie with the Act's implementation, and not the governing framework, particularly in relation to local council plans not reflecting regional strategies. As an example, the Act enables councils to make local plans but there is a lack of desire from many local councils to make such plans to increase development densities, consistent with regional strategies. A revised Act could, however, provide an impetus for such plans to be progressed or for appeals to be possible against rezoning applications which are rejected, where these are consistent with regional strategies. An Issues Paper is due to be released in December 2011, with a Green Paper due to be published by the end of April 2012.

PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Productivity Commission has commenced an inquiry into the role of local government, as part of its business regulation benchmarking studies. The inquiry will examine the extent to which different approaches to regulatory responsibilities by local governments materially affects costs incurred by business, both within and between jurisdictions. The Commission's Issues Paper is [here](#). Submissions are due by 31 October 2011.

WA GOVERNMENT AND POLICE PRODUCE A 'GOODBYE GRAFFITI' TOOLKIT

The Western Australian Government and the WA Police Graffiti Team have adopted a range of measures dealing with the management of graffiti vandalism. These have been brought together on a dedicated website, *Goodbye Graffiti*, [here](#). This includes a special [Toolkit](#), identifying a selection of strategies to assist in the effective management of graffiti vandalism.

SHOPPING CENTRE NEWS 2011 AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND MARKETING AWARDS

Congratulations to GPT (and the team led by Jessica White and Sarah Slater), the overall winner of the *Shopping Centre News 2011 Australia and New Zealand Shopping Centre Marketing Awards*, held in Sydney last week. GPT won for its 'Kitchen Garden Program, the Magic of Growth', which was also the winner of the Multi Centre Community/Societal Category. All winners and finalists will be featured in the next issue of [Shopping Centre News](#).

NEW WESTFIELD HEADQUARTERS SITE TOUR AND BRIEFING ON 13 OCTOBER

Property Council members are invited to a special briefing and site tour of the new commercial areas, including the new Westfield headquarters, part of the Westfield Sydney development, for only a \$50 donation to the MS Society. Click [here](#).

PCA QLD RETAIL PROPERTY AWARDS TICKETS FOR THE GALA DINNER

This is the last chance to book tickets to the very popular Property Council, Queensland's *Retail Property of the Year Awards Dinner* being held at the Hilton Hotel Brisbane on 7 October. Click [here](#) or email Amy at: awilliams@propertyoz.com.au for tickets. The award finalists are listed [here](#).