



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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[Archive](#)

SILLY MEDIA CLAIMS ON 'PAID PARKING' IN BRISBANE AND ADELAIDE

There have been hysterical claims in the media in Brisbane and Adelaide over moves to introduce managed car parking, or 'paid parking' as they call it, in some shopping centres. Shoppers in Sydney and Melbourne will be wondering what the fuss is all about, given that managed car parking has been in existence for decades in these cities. Particularly amusing has been the criticism of some local councillors, whose outrage that people might have to pay for parking apparently does not extend to abolishing the thousands of council parking meters that help fund their salaries and allowances. Some facts might enlighten this 'debate'. First, the major purpose of a shopping centre car park is to deliver customers to the retailers of the centre. Although figures vary, around 75%-80% of customers usually arrive by car. Retailers are not being helped if valuable car parking spaces are being occupied by commuters and others (including retail staff) who are not spending at the centre. Second, managed car parking usually means (unlike council parking meters) that the first two or three hours of parking are free and charges only apply after this time. Usually less than 10% of customers spend longer than three hours at a centre so for the vast bulk of customers, this will not mean 'paid parking'. Third, by discouraging commuters and other non-customers, these genuine shoppers will find it much easier to locate a parking space, thereby reducing one of the biggest complaints about shopping centres. This will also reduce the chances that potential retail customers will be discouraged from visiting the centres. Fourth, yes, retail staff will now have to pay for parking or, like millions of other employees, will now have to rely on public transport to get to work. The amounts they are being charged, however, are heavily discounted and are much cheaper than those that retail staff and other employees, who work in other parts of the city, have to pay if they drive to work.

NRA SUMMARY OF TRADING RESTRICTIONS AT CHRISTMAS-NEW YEAR

The [National Retail Association](#) has published this very detailed [summary of trading hours restrictions](#) around Australia over the Christmas-New Year period. Please note that the arrangements for Adelaide have not yet been finalised and will be published as soon as they are.

WESTFIELD WEST LAKES GOLD WINNER AT PCA SA 2011 RETAIL PROPERTY AWARDS

Congratulations to the team at Westfield West Lakes which won 'Shopping Centre of the Year' at the PCA South Australia 2011 Retail Property Awards last Saturday. Congratulations also to Marteine Edwards, of Westfield Marion, who won the Ken Cooney 'Young Achiever of the Year' Award. Thanks also to Kate Knight OAM, Chris Hagi and the committee for another very successful night. The Shopping Centre Council of Australia is a sponsor of these awards.

PCA QUEENSLAND RETAIL BREAKFAST ON SHOPPING CENTRE REFURBISHMENTS

A PCA Queensland breakfast in Brisbane on 9 November on 'Shopping Centre Refurbishments' has a range of expert speakers, covering all aspects of refurbishments, including how to attract new tenants and hold on to existing tenants. Click [here](#) for further detail and [here](#) to register.

LIGHT WEIGHT PLASTIC BAG BAN IN ACT COMMENCES ON 1 NOVEMBER 2011

A reminder that the ban on the supply of some polyethylene plastic bags (i.e. the light weight plastic bags of the type usually used by supermarkets, grocery stores and take-away food stores) begins in the ACT on 1 November 2011 and hefty fines apply ([Shop Talk 12/5/11](#)). Click [here](#) for further information.