



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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[Archive](#)

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONER BILL NOW THROUGH THE SA PARLIAMENT

The Bill to establish a Small Business Commissioner in South Australia has now passed the SA Parliament ([Shop Talk 4/8/11](#) & [22/9/11](#)). The Commissioner, when appointed, will also have responsibility for the administration of the [Retail and Commercial Leases Act 1995](#). The Franchise Council of Australia failed in its bid to defeat the Bill, which it argued would lead to state regulation of franchising 'through the backdoor'. The FCA undermined its own campaign against the Bill by announcing, at the same time, a proposed national code of conduct on retail tenancy ([Shop Talk 4/8/11](#)). As one SA government adviser said: "How could they argue against state regulation of franchising on the grounds it was already nationally regulated when they were at the same time proposing national regulation of retail leasing on top of the existing state regulation? That made no sense."

SUBMISSION ON NSW REVIEW OF RETAIL TRADING HOURS RESTRICTIONS

The SCCA has lodged a [submission](#) on the NSW Government's [Discussion Paper](#) reviewing the shop trading provisions of the [Retail Trading Act 2008](#) ([Shop Talk 15/9/11](#)). We have argued that trading hours in NSW should be totally deregulated (as they are in the ACT and the Northern Territory). This is in line with a recommendation of the Productivity Commission. This would lead to significant savings for the NSW Government, which would no longer have to allocate staff to administer and enforce regulations. There is no contemporary justification for intervention by governments in relation to the times when people can shop or retailers can trade. The social and cultural institutions which historically underpinned a restrictive policy are no longer relevant to modern society, which requires flexibility, convenience and choice.

QIRC APPROVES TRADING ON 27 DECEMBER IN 6-DAY TRADING AREAS

The Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) has [approved](#) the National Retail Association's (NRA) application to enable non-exempt shops to trade on Tuesday 27 December (8:00am-5:00pm) in six-day trading areas. The decision, which was opposed by the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association (SDA) and Australian Workers' Union (AWU), will benefit towns such as Gympie, Bundaberg, Warwick and Dalby, where non-exempt shops would have had to otherwise close for three consecutive days. The Shopping Centre Council supported the NRA's application.

REMINDER OF 'RETAIL IN THE SPOTLIGHT' FORUMS IN SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE

Tickets are selling fast for the Property Council of Australia's half-day Retail Forums in [Sydney](#) on 17 November and [Melbourne](#) on 30 November. Expert retail speakers will address the forums, including Myer Chief Executive, Bernie Brookes. Click [here](#) (for Sydney) and [here](#) (for Melbourne) for registration.

ARA'S AUSTRALIAN RETAIL AWARDS BREAKFAST IN MELBOURNE, 15 NOVEMBER

The Australian Retailers Association will host their [2011 ARA Australian Retail Awards](#) at a breakfast in Melbourne on 15 November. National and state winners will be announced, including ARA Australian Retailer of the Year. Nominations can be made via [here](#) and purchase your tickets [here](#).

PROPERTY COUNCIL RELEASES THE 2011 VIC/TAS SHOPPING CENTRE DIRECTORY

The Property Council has released its latest VIC/TAS Shopping Centre Directory, with vital information on centres in Victoria and Tasmania. Click [here](#) to order.