



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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[Archive](#)

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RETAILERS AGAIN FACE GEOGRAPHIC APARTHEID

The South Australian Government has [announced](#) that it will permit shop trading on most public holidays but only for retail shops located in the Adelaide CBD. This is a bad start for a new Premier seeking to forge a new direction since it is actually a return to the 'bad old days' of last century when Sunday trading was confined to the CBD. The former Premier recognised that was unfair and in 2003 extended Sunday trading throughout Adelaide. Now we have a return to a situation where one group of retailers and retail property owners are given a competitive advantage which will disadvantage another, and much larger, group of retailers and retail property owners. When governments choose to intervene in the market place they must be guided by considerations of equity amongst those subject to intervention and ensure policy consistency. This is manifestly not the case with this announcement, which will create 'winners' and 'losers', and the Shopping Centre Council has been [critical of the decision](#). We are seeking to persuade the Government to extend the decision to the entire Adelaide metropolitan area.

SOME RELIEF FOR RETAILERS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA THIS CHRISTMAS

At the same time the South Australian Government has [permitted](#) shop trading, from 9am to 9pm, on Tuesday 27 December (Proclamation Day in South Australia.) The Government has also allowed expanded Sunday trading (from 9am to 5pm) on the three Sundays leading up to Christmas Day. Retailers and shopping centre owners have to apply to take advantage of these concessions in accordance with section 5 of the [Shop Trading Hours Act 1977](#). Details of how to apply are available [here](#). While these concessions are welcome, it should be remembered that Adelaide will still be 'closed for business' on four days over the traditionally busy Christmas-New Year period.

AMP AND CFSGAM BIG WINNERS AT ICSC 2011 ASIA SHOPPING CENTRE AWARDS

Australian excellence in the marketing of our shopping centres was again on display at the International Council of Shopping Centers' *Asia Pacific Shopping Center Awards 2011*, held in Shanghai last week. Congratulations, in particular, to AMP Capital Shopping Centres, which won three gold awards and one silver award for marketing. Congratulations also to Colonial First State Global Asset Management, which won one gold and one silver award for shopping centre design and development, as well as a gold award for marketing. QIC also won a gold award for marketing while GPT won a silver award. Winners of gold awards are automatically entered into the Viva 'Best of the Best' Awards to be held at [ICSC's RECon in Las Vegas](#) next May. Click [here](#) for a full list of this year's finalists and winners.

WOOLWORTHS JUST GETS ON WITH IT WHILE OTHERS JUST COMPLAIN

An interesting fact from the recent Woolworths' investor briefing is that the company has already secured 100 sites for its new Masters store format and expects a further 150 in the next five years. No statements to the media about how the planning system is 'locking out' new entrants to the retailing industry! No public complaints about how special planning rules are needed to permit 'new retail formats' to get started in Australia! Woolworths, once it made the decision to invest in Masters, just got on with the job of finding sites – no doubt sometimes paying more than it had hoped – just as shopping centre owners and developers have to do when they wish to expand. There's a lesson here for companies such as Aldi and Costco, which spend a lot of time complaining about how hard it is for 'new retail formats' to get started in Australia. Perhaps there's a lesson here too for the Productivity Commission and the ACCC which repeat, but rarely interrogate, such claims ([Shop Talk 14/7/11](#)).