



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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[Archive](#)

SA GOVERNMENT CLAIMS VICTORY IN FIGHT OVER PUBLIC HOLIDAYS BILL

South Australian Premier, Jay Weatherill, has [claimed victory](#) in the fight over additional public holidays and discriminatory public holiday trading, after a 'compromise' negotiated with four minor party MLCs ([Shop Talk 8/3/12](#) and [1/3/12](#)). Under the 'compromise' the new public holidays on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve will commence at 7pm, instead of the proposed 5pm. The Government required the support of at least four (of the seven) independent and minor party MLCs in order to ensure the [Statutes Amendment \(Shop Trading and Holidays\) Bill 2012](#), which has already passed the Legislative Assembly, is passed by the Legislative Council. This Bill is now likely to be debated in the Legislative Council next week. The so-called compromise will still cause great harm to thousands of businesses across South Australia which are required to open at these times and which will now have to pay penalty rates of pay after 7pm. The SA Business Coalition has [vowed](#) to continue to oppose the Bill. If the Bill is passed by the Legislative Council, as now seems likely, it will also reintroduce 'retail apartheid' in Adelaide, with only shops in the Adelaide CBD being permitted to trade on most public holidays. The Premier is kidding himself, however, if he really believes: "The passage of this legislation will settle the shop trading hours debate."

DEBATE BEGINS ON SUNDAY TRADING BILL IN WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT

The [Retail Trading Hours Amendment Bill 2012](#) has been introduced into the WA Parliament. This is the Bill to allow all general retail shops (i.e. large shops) in metropolitan Perth to open on Sundays (from 11am to 5pm) and to trade on most public holidays ([Shop Talk 23/2/12](#)). A copy of the second reading speech is [here](#) and the explanatory memorandum is [here](#).

IPART RELEASES WATER PRICING REVIEW AND DRAFT PRICING FOR SYDNEY WATER

The NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) has released various reports that affect [metropolitan water utility pricing](#), including the [Draft Determination for Sydney Water's pricing](#) for water, sewerage, stormwater and trade waste for the period 2012/13 to 2015/16. A welcome change is that a previous price structure proposal which would have resulted in massive price increases for fixed water and sewerage charges, where shopping centre tenants would have been treated and charged as separate properties, has been abandoned ([Shop Talk, 18/8/11](#)). IPART has acknowledged the inequities of this approach. The proposed pricing for Sydney Water highlights a new approach for stormwater charges based on site area. IPART has stated in its media release that "customers with property sizes of greater than 10,000m² are likely to receive very large increases on their stormwater drainage bill", but that "when combined with other price structure changes the impact on their total bills is reduced". As IPART's analysis and information is outlined in general terms, and it also comments that "the impact of our draft determination of large businesses vary from customer to customer", we are currently reviewing the proposed structural changes and pricing proposals in more detail. We will be lodging a submission with IPART by the closing date of 13 April.

PCA RETAIL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING INTRODUCTION COURSE

The Property Council has organised highly practical introductory courses on Retail Property Management and Marketing, which will include a site visit to a 'landmark' centre. The links below give further information on course details and for registration for Sydney [3-4 April](#) or [1-2 August](#); Melbourne [23-24 April](#); or Brisbane [16-17 July](#).