



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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[Archive](#)

ACT SUPERMARKET COMPETITION POLICY SHOULD NOW BE SHELVED

The amount of supermarket retailing floorspace in the Australian Capital Territory has doubled over the last 20 years. The ACT now has around 345 square metres of supermarket floorspace per 1,000 people, compared to the Australian average of between 320-330 m² per 1,000 people. Based on new, announced and anticipated new supermarkets in the ACT, it is estimated this figure will grow to 451 m² per 1,000 people by 2014. This explosion in supermarket floorspace has occurred under the supposedly rigid ACT planning system. These details are contained in the [Shopping Centre Council's submission](#) to the [ACT Legislative Assembly Select Committee on ACT Supermarket Competition Policy](#). Given that the Territory has one of the most competitive markets for supermarket goods in Australia, it is puzzling the ACT Government has adopted its own supermarket competition policy. This policy involves discriminating against Coles and Woolworths in the direct sale of land for supermarkets, as well as proposed changes to the ACT Territory Plan ([Shop Talk 9/10/09](#) & [10/2/11](#)). The Government's own reports, however, have demonstrated such government intervention will inevitably lead to Canberrans paying higher prices for their groceries. Because such intervention also reduces the number of parties bidding for supermarket sites, Canberrans will also receive less government revenue from land releases. There is clearly no market failure requiring separate government intervention. Responsibility for regulating supermarket competition in the ACT should rest solely with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, as it is in the other states and territories.

SHOPPING CENTRE NEWS 'BIG GUNS' 2012 ISSUE IS NOW AVAILABLE

The 'Big Guns 2012' issue of [SCN](#) (*Shopping Centre News*) has just been published with the annual rankings of Australia's largest shopping centres on a range of criteria. Click [here](#) to subscribe.

NSW GOVERNMENT TO SEEK TRADING FOR ALL SHOPS ON BOXING DAY

The NSW Government has [announced](#) that it will legislate to permit all shops to open on Boxing Day. At present, because of an historical anomaly, only shops within the Sydney CBD are permitted to trade on Boxing Day. This announcement is the outcome of the review of NSW trading hours conducted last year ([Shop Talk 3/11/11](#)). It is a pity the Government is not also seeking to bring NSW trading hours laws completely into line with Victoria, by also permitting trading on Easter Sunday. The Government appears to have concluded such a step would not pass the Legislative Council, where it does not have a majority. As it is the Government will have to convince the minor parties to support the Boxing Day reform. The Greens have already announced they will oppose the Bill and the Labor Opposition, taking its marching orders from the Shop Assistants Union, is also likely to oppose.

NRA YOUNG RETAILER OF THE YEAR APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

Applications have opened for the *National Retail Association Young Retailer of the Year Awards*, which recognises excellence among retailers under the age of 25 years. This is a great opportunity for shopping centres to identify and recognise talented young retailers in their centres. The Shopping Centre Council is a sponsor of these awards. Click [here](#) for further details and an application form.

WA RETAIL TRADERS' ASSOCIATION 2012 RETAIL AWARDS FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE

The RTA of WA's 2012 [WA Retail Awards for Customer Service Excellence](#) is now open for nominations [here](#). Applications close on 20 April and the winners are announced at a Gala Dinner on 19 May. Phone CCI Events on 08 9365 7500 or email functions@cciwa.com for tickets. The Shopping Centre Council is a sponsor of these awards.