



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

Thursday 26 April 2012

[Previous Editions](#)

IPART PUBLISHES ITS REPORT ON WATER ACCESS AND SERVICES CHARGES

The NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) has published its [Draft Determination on Sydney Water's prices](#) across the four year period from 2012-13 to 2015-16. Based on our analysis, the structure of water pricing has greatly improved since IPART proposed options for water pricing structures last year, particularly for fixed prices ([Shop Talk 18/8/11](#)). Our submission on the Draft Determination includes our analysis which suggests that overall, prices will increase by up to around 8% (in real terms) across the four-year period, but this is based on a number of assumptions and unknown factors. A critical concern is the proposed stormwater pricing approach which is to be based on site area alone, and not relevant factors such as site conditions or even onsite stormwater harvesting and reuse. For one SCCA member site, the stormwater charge would increase from just over \$100 to over \$10,000. Keep in mind, such charges are recoverable outgoings so a large part of such charges will be borne by retail tenants. This approach to stormwater charging would also send the wrong price signal for sustainability initiatives. Uncertainties also remain in relation to trade waste charges, however IPART is continuing consultation on both of these issues, with the Final Determination due in June 2012. Our submission on the Draft Determination can be accessed [here](#).

QIRC APPROVES SUNDAY TRADING IN BUNDABERG TO BEGIN ON 13 MAY

The Queensland Industrial Relations Commission has [approved](#) the application for Sunday trading (and trading on most public holidays) in Bundaberg, from 9am to 6pm, to begin on Sunday 13 May. However, the QIRC has [rejected](#) the application to extend Sunday and public holiday trading hours in the Sunshine Coast area.

TIRED OLD ARGUMENTS ABOUT BOXING DAY TRADING REFORMS IN NSW

There is now media speculation that the [Bill](#) to allow shop trading on Boxing Day throughout NSW ([Shop Talk 4/4/12](#)) may be defeated in the Legislative Council – where the Government does not have a majority – on the grounds that it is unfair to shop workers. This is despite the fact that the Bill requires that shops that open on Boxing Day must be staffed by employees who freely elect to work on that day. The reform will also provide valuable casual work for many people who need the income. Concern about shop employees is hypocritical given the thousands of other employees, outside retailing, who already work on Boxing Day and who have none of the protections contained in this Bill. Shop trading on Boxing Day is already a fact of life in Victoria, Tasmania, the ACT, the NT and most of Queensland – as well as being a long-standing custom in the Sydney CBD – without any of the harmful effects on family life claimed by the opponents of the Bill.

BUSINESS CAMPAIGN TO REFORM LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN TASMANIA

By any measure, Tasmania is over-governed. At the local government level, the state has 29 councils which means an average of one council for every 17,250 Tasmanians and one councillor for every 1,800 Tasmanians (and one councillor for every 577 ratepayers!). These are ridiculous numbers and result in huge inefficiencies in administration and mean council rates are far higher than they should be. A business coalition, '[Tasmanians For Reform](#)', is seeking to achieve reform of local government, not just by reducing the number of councils. [Research](#) commissioned by TFR has suggested more than \$100 million in savings can be achieved from greater efficiencies. The Shopping Centre Council is a member of TFR. Mary Massina, Property Council Executive Director, Tasmania, has been instrumental in driving the reform campaign.