



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

Thursday 3 May 2012

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TAX BREAKS FOR GREEN BUILDINGS A POTENTIAL BUDGET CASUALTY

There have been media reports this week that the Federal Government's \$1 billion [Tax Breaks for Green Buildings scheme](#), a 2010 election commitment made by the Prime Minister, could become a casualty under expenditure cuts expected in next week's Budget. As expected, the Government has declined to comment on the media reports. The scheme was originally scheduled to commence on 1 July 2011 but was deferred last year to commence on 1 July 2012 ([Shop Talk 10/3/11](#), [28/4/11](#)). The SCCA is a strong supporter of the scheme, and was a member of the Roundtable established last year to provide advice on its design, chaired by the Hon Tom Roper, a former Treasurer of Victoria. Notwithstanding the budgetary implications, it would be a poor public policy outcome if the scheme was dumped in its entirety, particularly given last year's lapsing of the successful [Green Building Fund](#), which unfortunately only offered grants to shopping centres towards the end of its seven funding rounds. It is hoped that, at the very least, a hybrid of Tax Breaks scheme remains, either with an adjusted level of funding and/or a deferred commencement.

CITY OF MANDURAH IN WA FINALLY VOTES FOR SUNDAY TRADING

It is not widely known that more than 20 regional areas of Western Australia already have Sunday trading. Now that Sunday trading appears likely for Perth ([Shop Talk 4/4/12](#)) this will quickly spread to other regional areas, particularly those close to Perth. First off the mark is the City of Mandurah which has voted to permit Sunday trading, between 10am and 5pm. This will require Government approval but does not need legislative change. This is a major victory for Nigel Haines, Centre Manager of Centro Mandurah, who has battled for many years for rational trading hours in Mandurah.

TRADING ON LABOUR DAY IN QUEENSLAND AND ON WESTERN AUSTRALIA DAY

Large shops are required to close on Labour Day (7 May) throughout Queensland. Also in Queensland the Queen's Birthday public holiday has been transferred to the first Monday in October but, for 2012 only, there is a one-off Queen's Diamond Jubilee holiday on 11 June. Shops can trade from 9am to 6pm on both of these days. Foundation Day in WA, now called [Western Australia Day](#), is on 4 June. Only shops in the 'special trading precincts' can trade (from 8am to 5pm) on that day.

SHOPPING CENTRE NEWS LAUNCHES THE SHOPPING CENTRE NETWORK

Shopping Centre News has launched a social network, the [Shopping Centre Network](#), for the shopping centre industry. Click [here](#) to learn more about this new forum and [here](#) to join for free.

MORE RETAIL TRADERS ASSOCIATION SMART SEMINARS FOR RETAILERS IN MAY

The Retail Traders Association of Western Australia will present three two-hour seminars in Perth from 8 May. These will be of interest to all retailers. Click [here](#) to register for your preferred seminar.

DIRECTIONAL INSIGHTS NEW HOUSEHOLD SHOPPING BEHAVIOUR SERIES

Directional Insights has compiled a special *Lifestage Benchmark Series*, which examine spending behavior of different types of Australian households. Click [here](#) for further details and to order.

PROPERTY COUNCIL RETAIL PROPERTY CONFERENCE IN PERTH ON 20 JUNE

The Property Council WA will hold a [Retail Property Conference](#) in Perth on 20 June. This full day event covers global trends, online retail and likely future trends in shopping centres. Click [here](#) to register.