



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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NSW GOVERNMENT RELEASES PLANNING REFORM GREEN PAPER

The NSW Government has released the long-awaited [Green Paper: A New Planning System for NSW](#) which outlines major proposed changes across the planning system. The Green Paper outlines "23 transformative changes" which are based on four fundamentals: community participation; strategic focus; streamlined approval; and the provision of infrastructure. A key practical objective is to improve strategic planning, including community input during this stage, and then enable more streamlined development assessment and approval. This includes a welcome focus on increasing the use of exempt and complying assessment, which could include shop fit outs within shopping centres. The area of retail development has been flagged as a key economic indicator of an improved planning system, including a proposed "Retail Development" Planning Policy, as one of 10 key policy areas "which are of interest to the state". These policy areas are proposed to be approved by Cabinet, and would not be statutory planning instruments, but would be given effect through the development of strategic regional, sub-regional and local plans. Submissions on the Green Paper close on 14 September. This will be followed by a White Paper and an Exposure Bill which will also be released for public consultation.

SHOPPING CENTRE COUNCIL APPOINTED TO THE RETAIL COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

The Assistant Treasurer, David Bradbury, has [announced](#) that the Shopping Centre Council of Australia has been appointed to the Retail Council of Australia. The Retail Council was established by the Federal Government following the report of the [Productivity Commission Inquiry into the Economic Structure and Performance of the Australian Retail Industry](#). The Retail Council held its first meeting on 18 July.

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT TO INITIATE A REVIEW OF TRADING HOURS LAWS

The Queensland Government in its [Six month action plan: July-December 2012](#), released last week, has committed to appointing "a red-tape reduction expert panel to review liquor licencing, gaming, trading hours and noise reduction". It is understood the [Queensland Competition Authority](#) will be involved in this review. Queensland's trading hours laws are a nightmare with the State still divided, for trading hours purposes, into around 20 separate regions. Only the trading hours laws in South East Queensland are directly regulated by Parliament – Part 5A of the [Trading \(Allowable Hours\) Act 1990](#) – with trading hours in other regions the responsibility of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission through orders made under section 21 of the Act. As a result of this arrangement we have bizarre anomalies such as, for example, the allowable trading hours in Toowoomba differing from those in Warwick, which is just 80 kilometres further down the New England Highway from Toowoomba.

SUNDAY TRADING AND PUBLIC HOLIDAY TRADING APPROVED FOR GYMPIE REGION

As an example of the patchwork nature of the present system, the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission has granted the National Retail Association's application for Sunday trading (9am to 6pm), and trading on most public holidays (8.30am to 5.30pm) for the Gympie area. This will commence on Sunday 6 August. Click [here](#) for the decision.

ICSC RETAIL REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN CHINA CONFERENCE

The International Council of Shopping Centers will hold a conference on *Retail Real Estate Investment Opportunities in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th tier Cities in China*, in Dalian, China on 16-17 August. Click [here](#) for further information and registration details.