



# SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE  
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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## PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION REPORT OF INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Productivity Commission has released its report into "[Performance Benchmarking of Australian Business Regulation: The Role of Local Government as Regulator](#)". The Commission has proposed a number of 'leading practices' for the local government around Australia, including in planning, zoning and development assessment.

## RETAIL TENANCY CODE OF CONDUCT PROMOTED BY NORTON ROSE LAW FIRM

Stephen Giles, a partner at Norton Rose, has 'outed' himself as a key player in the proposed retail tenancy code of conduct ([Shop Talk 27/2/12](#)). On his firm's [website](#), Giles repeats the furphy that such a code reflects a recommendation of the [Productivity Commission's 2008 Inquiry](#). While the Commission did recommend a code for shopping centres, it proposed this would effectively *take the place of*, not be *in addition to*, existing retail tenancy legislation (see pp. 256-260 of the report). The Commission said a code would enable "the more prescriptive aspects of the current [retail tenancy] regulation to become redundant and be repealed." In other words, with such a code in place, shopping centres would then be released from much of the detailed obligations of retail tenancy legislation. This was rejected at the time by retailer associations, including the Australian Retailers Association, which Giles claims is now a supporter of the Norton Rose code. The Commission also said the code should "avoid intrusion on normal commercial decision making", which is precisely what the Norton Rose code seeks to do. The Federal Government, in its response to the Commission's report, also cautioned "that such a code should not be *an additional layer of regulation*". The retail tenancy industry is already over-regulated. The SCCA, like the Franchise Council in its own battle in SA, won't agree to an additional layer of regulation.

## STEPHANIE TAM IS THE 2012 NRA YOUNG RETAILER OF THE YEAR

Stephanie Tam, Sales Manager-NSW, ACT & VIC at Lorna Jane Active Wear, was named as the 2012 Young Retailer of the Year at the [National Retail Association Young Retailer of the Year Awards Dinner](#) in Melbourne on Wednesday night. Stephanie, who was named the winner from an outstanding field of [finalists](#), wins a place on next year's [Westfield World Retail Study Tour](#). Tim Nash, a Supply Chain Analyst with Yum! Restaurants, was announced the runner up. The Shopping Centre Council was a sponsor of these Awards.

## PCA RETAIL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING COURSE IN BRISBANE

The Property Council is holding a three-day advanced education course on Retail Property Management and Marketing in Brisbane from 11-13 September. A pre-requisite for attendees is to have been working in retail property management for at least three years. Click [here](#) for further information and to register for the course.

## SMARTER RETAIL WORKSHOPS RUN BY RETAIL TRADERS ASSOCIATION OF WA

The Retail Traders Association of WA has designed several 'Smarter Workshops' to be held in Perth this month, and later this year, specially tailored for retailers, managers and staff. Click [here](#) for full details and to register.

## WORLD RETAIL CONGRESS ANNUAL SUMMIT IN LONDON ON 19-21 SEPTEMBER

The [World Retail Congress Annual Summit](#) will be held in London on 19-21 September. The speakers include experienced retailers (including from Google; Tesco; Disney; Marks and Spencer). Click [here](#) to download the program and [here](#) to register.