



# SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE  
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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## VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT MOVES TO REPEAL UNNECESSARY RED TAPE

Victorian Small Business Minister, Louise Asher, is to be congratulated for [moving to repeal](#) Section 25 of the Victorian *Retail Leases Act*. This is the 'poster child' for unnecessary government regulation. For nearly a decade retail lessors in Victoria have been forced to supply irrelevant lease details (address of lessor, lessee, etc.) to the Small Business Commissioner. This requirement – which costs around \$1 million a year – was supposedly so the SBC could contact tenants, if necessary. In over nine years the SBC has never made any use of this information which also costs Victorian taxpayers money to compile the information supplied. At last we have a Minister with the good sense to remove this costly piece of unnecessary red tape which is not of the slightest use to tenants, landlords or the Small Business Commissioner.

## CODE OF PRACTICE ON CASUAL MALL LICENSING IS AGAIN BEFORE THE ACCC

In 2007 the Shopping Centre Council negotiated a voluntary [Code of Practice on Casual Mall Licensing](#) with the main retailer associations. The Code, which operates in all States except South Australia, began on 1 January 2008 after it had been authorised by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission for a period of five years to ensure immunity from actions under the (then) *Trade Practices Act* for any anti-competitive behavior prescribed in the Code. The Code, which expires on 31 December 2012, has proved very successful in limiting disputes over casual mall licensing and the parties to the Code have agreed to extend it for a further period of five years from 1 January 2013. This will require a new authorisation by the ACCC (under the *Competition and Consumer Act*) and this process has begun. Details of the progress of the ACCC authorisation process are available [here](#).

## THREE USEFUL BLOGS TO KEEP UP ON VICTORIAN RETAIL TENANCY LAWS

For those who are required to keep abreast of developments in retail tenancy law in Victoria, including the *Retail Leases Act*, and other related property law matters, we recommend subscribing to three useful blogs, all by Victorian barristers who practice in property law. These are [Sam Hopper Barrister](#); [The Property Law Blog](#) (Robert Hay); and the [Melbourne Property Law Blog](#) (William Stark). If there are other useful blogs out there, including any dealing with retail tenancy law in States other than Victoria, please let us know at [scca@scca.org.au](mailto:scca@scca.org.au) and we'll be happy to publicise them in *Shop Talk*.

## PCA WA TO RUN A COMMERCIAL LEASING FUNDAMENTALS COURSE IN PERTH

The Property Council in Western Australia is offering a course on *Commercial Leasing Fundamentals* in Perth on 27 September 2012. The course covers owners' perspectives; tenants' perspectives; marketing; and legal issues. Click [here](#) for details and register [here](#).

## THE PROPERTY COUNCIL ACADEMY RUNS RETAIL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT DIPLOMA

The Property Council Academy will run a three-day course, *Retail Property Management and Marketing Industry Diploma*, in Sydney from 16 October. Click [here](#) for details and [here](#) to register.

## ICSC CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS TO BE HELD IN BRAZIL FROM 15-17 OCTOBER

The International Council of Shopping Center's *Conference of the Americas* will be held in Brazil from 15-17 October 2012. This is the largest shopping centre industry convention in Latin America, held every two years. Click [here](#) for the full program and [here](#) for registration details.