



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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VICTORIAN ZONING REFORMS COMMITTEE NOW TO REPORT IN FEBRUARY 2013

The 'Reformed Zones Ministerial Advisory Committee', which is to provide advice to the Minister for Planning on proposed zoning changes, is to report on residential zones by 14 December 2012 and on the non-residential zones, by 15 February 2013. The Committee's task is to provide advice on the final form of the proposed zoning reforms set out in the [Reformed Zones for Victoria Discussion Paper](#), on which submissions closed in September ([Shop Talk 27/9/12](#)). The full terms of reference of the committee are [here](#). The Shopping Centre Council's submission is [here](#).

SHOPPING CENTRE COUNCIL SUBMISSION ON NSW CODE ASSESSMENT REFORMS

The Shopping Centre Council has lodged a submission on the NSW Government's [proposed reforms to the exempt and complying development](#) regime, which aims to streamline the assessment of minor developments. The proposed reforms include allowing 24 hour trading in the two weeks up to Christmas – without requiring development consent – and the reinstatement of previously removed requirements that enable the installation of various advertising signs. The reforms propose a number of 'change of use' provisions which require further clarification, which potentially are in conflict with the NSW Local Planning Panel's recommendations on the Standard LEP ([Shop Talk 8/11/12](#)). The Shopping Centre Council will be discussing these issues further with the Government.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SHOP TRADING HOURS AROUND AUSTRALIA

We recently published the National Retail Association's excellent guide to shop trading hours over Christmas-New Year. There were some minor errors relating to Western Australia. The corrected detailed guide is [here](#) and a national summary [here](#).

VICTORIAN PARLIAMENT GETS RID OF UNNECESSARY RED TAPE PROVISION

The Victorian Parliament has now passed the [Bill](#) repealing section 25 of the *Retail Leases Act* which required lessors to notify irrelevant lease details to the Small Business Commissioner ([Shop Talk 13/9/12](#) and [25/10/12](#)). This exercise has shown just how difficult it is to convince MPs to get rid of unnecessary and costly red tape. This is despite landlords, tenants and the Small Business Commissioner agreeing the provision had no utility. One Labor MP in the debate even claimed: "When the [lease] register goes, all hope of fairness in leasing arrangements will go with it"! We can only assume such nonsense is the result of embarrassment that it was a Labor Government which introduced this provision and a succession of Labor Ministers failed to repeal it, once it was found to be useless. We have to thank the Minister for Small Business, Louise Asher, for finally taking action to get rid of this silly and costly provision.

PROPERTY COUNCIL ACADEMY RELEASES ITS COURSE CALENDAR FOR 2013

The Property Council Academy has released its [2013 Course Calendar](#), listing titles, dates and host cities for their courses next year.

WINNERS OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY AWARDS

Congratulations to the Cohen Group's Burnside Village, in Adelaide, which won the Gold Award at the Property Council's 2012 Award for Excellence in the South Australian Shopping Centre Industry. Steve Maras of the Maras Group won the WJ McCallum Award for significant contribution to the industry in SA. Joel Southam of Centro Retail Australia was named the Ken Cooney Young Achiever of the Year. The Shopping Centre Council was a sponsor of the awards. A full list of winners is [here](#).