



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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VICTORIAN RETAIL LEASES REGULATIONS TO BE RENEWED IN APRIL 2013

The [Retail Leases Regulations 2003](#), made under the Victorian [Retail Leases Act](#) are due to sunset on 23 April 2013. The Victorian Government released, for consultation, the [Draft Retail Leases Regulations 2013](#). The Shopping Centre Council has lodged a [submission](#) on the Draft.

NSW PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE HOLDS INQUIRY INTO LAND VALUATION SYSTEM

The Joint Standing Committee on the Office of the NSW Valuer-General has announced an [Inquiry into the Land Valuation System](#) to "test the integrity of land valuations and to develop reforms required to ensure the system maintains public support". The [Issues Paper](#) suggests the Committee will investigate the 'site value' basis of the current system. Oddly the Committee refers to overseas systems, such as Ireland and Singapore with more 'market value' systems, rather than ensuring consistency with relevant Australian jurisdictions. The [Land Valuation Act 2010](#) in Queensland specifically brought Queensland's valuation methodology into line with NSW. The Shopping Centre Council will make a submission. Submissions close on 8 March with public hearings in March.

NSW PLANNING GREEN PAPER FEEDBACK SUMMARY REPORT

The NSW Government has released a [Summary Report](#) on the feedback from last year's Planning Reform Green Paper ([Shop Talk 19/7/12](#) & [20/9/12](#)). The next stage is the release of a White Paper and a draft Exposure Bill. The report highlights stakeholder agreement for a new retail planning policy framework, and also notes other issues raised by the Shopping Centre Council, such as infrastructure contributions, development assessment and code assessment.

WESTFIELD MARION COMMENDED BY SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CORONER

Last year Westfield was the subject of negative media reports claiming "a man suffered a fatal heart attack [at Westfield Marion in Adelaide] just meters from potentially life-saving medical equipment [a defibrillator] because a security officer was banned from using it". At the time of the initial roll-out, which occurred two weeks before the incident, Westfield's policy was that defibrillators were only to be used by trained Westfield staff. The Coroner's [findings](#) have now been published. He has made no criticism of Westfield and did not dispute the policy that the defibrillator should only have been used by qualified staff. The Coroner said: "I wholeheartedly commend [Westfield Marion's] decision to install defibrillators and furthermore to upgrade the machines at Westfield Marion so they can be used by any member of the public." The Coroner found the death "was entirely preventable" had hospital staff followed proper procedures when the customer had presented himself at hospital the previous day. While finding that defibrillators at shopping centres "have the potential to save lives", the Coroner added this important warning (based on expert medical advice) for all shopping centre owners: "Regrettably, the fact remains that there will always be a need for a sudden collapse to be witnessed by a person who is capable of recognizing a sudden cardiac arrest even if defibrillation equipment is near to hand." In the tragic case at Westfield Marion the Coroner found "the CCTV footage shows that there was no witness to [the] actual collapse".

CHRIS BOWEN APPOINTED MINISTER FOR SMALL BUSINESS IN FEDERAL RESHUFFLE

In the Federal Cabinet [reshuffle](#) this week, Chris Bowen MP has been appointed Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Industry and Innovation (with responsibility for the national occupational licensing system) and Minister for Small Business.