



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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WA GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO FURTHER TRADING HOURS LIBERALISATION

The Western Australian Government has [committed](#) to further easing legislative restrictions on 'small shops' if it is re-elected on 9 March, thereby increasing the number of retailers who can open at any time without any restrictions. Currently, in order to qualify as a 'small shop' (and therefore permitted to open 24 hours a day, seven days a week), a shop owner cannot own more than 3 shops and cannot have more than 18 staff on the floor at any one time. These numbers will be increased to 4 and 25, respectively. The pledge, while sensible, will actually further increase the anomalies that still exist in the trading hours law in WA. It is therefore encouraging that the Minister for Commerce, Simon O'Brien, did not rule out further trading hours liberalisation if the Government is re-elected. "We will continue to allow trading hours to evolve," Mr O'Brien said.

Incidentally, before Sunday trading was introduced in WA, one of the strongest opponents was the WA Independent Grocers Association, whose members previously had a monopoly on Sundays. This week the WAIGA President, John Cummings, was quoted in the *West Australian* as saying that Sunday trading had not seen a tremendous market shift [to Coles and Woolworths], as previously feared, with one of his shops reporting no change in Sunday trade since Coles and Woolworths opened.

VICTORIAN RETAIL LEASES REGULATIONS NOW RELEASED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Victorian Government has released for public comment the [Draft Retail Leases Regulations 2013](#), which will be made under the [Retail Leases Act 2003](#). When finalised, these Regulations will replace the existing [Retail Leases Regulations 2003](#), which will sunset on 23 April 2013. A [Regulatory Impact Statement](#) has also been released. Submissions on the Draft Regulations close on 25 March 2013.

REVIEW OF THE QUEENSLAND CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL ACT

The Queensland Government is conducting a review of the [Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act](#). QCAT, which commenced operation in December 2009, took over the former functions of 18 separate tribunals in Queensland, including the former Retail Shop Leases Tribunal. The Shopping Centre Council has lodged a [submission](#) on the [Consultation Paper](#) for the review.

DR MICHAEL SCHAPER RENOMINATED AS DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE ACCC

Dr Michael Schaper, currently Deputy Chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, with special responsibility for small business matters, has been [re-nominated](#) by the Federal Government for a further five-year term. The nomination is now subject to consultation with the States and Territories.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE NRA YOUNG RETAILER OF THE YEAR OPEN TOMORROW

Nominations open tomorrow (Friday) for the *National Retail Association Young Retailer of the Year Awards*. These recognise excellence among retailers under the age of 25 years. This is an opportunity for shopping centres to identify and recognise talented young retailers in their centres. The Shopping Centre Council is a sponsor of these awards. Click [here](#) for further information and FAQs.

PCA QLD COURSE ON UNDERSTANDING THE RETAIL SHOP LEASES ACT 13 MARCH

The Property Council Queensland has organised a half-day course in Brisbane on 13 March on understanding key provisions of the [Retail Shop Leases Act](#). These include disclosure, trading obligations, redevelopments, lessees' defaults. Click [here](#) for further details and [here](#) to book.