



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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NSW GOVERNMENT RELEASES DRAFT SYDNEY PLANNING STRATEGY TO 2031

The NSW Government has released the [Draft Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney](#), designed to guide strategic planning of the growth of Sydney through to 2031. Submissions on the Metro Strategy close on 31 May.

CHANGES TO VISA CARD SURCHARGE RULES OPERATE FROM 18 MARCH

Retailers need to be aware of changes, which came into effect last Monday, limiting the surcharge which can be applied to customers paying with a Visa credit card. This follows a review by the Reserve Bank of credit card surcharges. Surcharges will now be limited to the retailer's "reasonable cost of acceptance" for a transaction involving a Visa card and retailers may be required to justify this calculation. A [fact sheet](#) has been produced by Visa which gives greater guidance to retailers on the rule changes. At this stage Diners Club, MasterCard and JCB have not made any decision concerning limiting surcharges on their transactions but there are media reports that American Express is about to follow suit.

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES TERMINATION OF EREP PROGRAM

The Victorian Government has [revoked](#) the Environment and Resource Efficiency Plans (EREP) program in order to reduce the compliance burden on businesses and duplication with Commonwealth schemes such as the Energy Efficiency Opportunities program and the carbon price. The EREP program required certain businesses, including shopping centre owners, to identify and implement energy and water efficiency initiatives and report to EPA Victoria. This announcement brings forward the program's original sunset date of 31 December 2014 and is a welcome move to reduce duplication and red tape.

QLD VALUER-GENERAL RELEASES 2013 PROPERTY MARKET MOVEMENT REPORT

New land valuations in Queensland, to take effect on 30 June 2013 for local government rates and for land tax, were issued this week. The Valuer-General has also released the [2013 Property Market Movement Report](#), summarising land valuation movements by local government areas for the various property classes.

SHOPPING CENTRE NEWS 'BIG GUNS' EDITION IS NOW AVAILABLE

The 'Big Guns 2013' issue of [SCN](#) (*Shopping Centre News*) has just been published with the annual rankings of Australia's largest shopping centres on a range of criteria. Congratulations to Chadstone Shopping Centre, in Melbourne, which again topped the list for centre turnover with a massive \$1.37 billion (up 5.2%); Broadway Shopping Centre (Sydney) which topped the centre sales productivity list (centre turnover per m²), up 5.7%; and Westfield Sydney, which topped the speciality sales productivity list (specialty turnover per m²), up 3.4%. This edition also includes an article by the Shopping Centre Council on where things stand in the policy debate over the tax advantage given to overseas retailers seeking to sell goods into Australia (the low value import threshold). Click [here](#) to subscribe.

WA PREMIER ANNOUNCES EXTENSIVE CABINET RESHUFFLE AFTER ELECTION WIN

The Premier of Western Australia, Colin Barnett, has [announced](#) an extensive Cabinet reshuffle, following his Government's comfortable election victory on 9 March. Attorney-General, Michael Mischin MLC, adds the Commerce portfolio following Simon O'Brien's departure from Cabinet and Liza Harvey MLA takes on Small Business. John Day MLA remains Minister for Planning and Troy Buswell MLA remains Treasurer. The portfolio of Local Government goes to a new Minister, Tony Simpson MLA.