



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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NSW LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM PANEL CONSULTS ON THIRD REPORT

The [Independent Local Government Review Panel](#) is undertaking consultation on its third report, [Future Directions for NSW Local Government](#), as part of the review process which commenced in July 2012. The Shopping Centre Council has lodged previous submissions to the Panel to reiterate our concerns with shopping centres being gouged under the rating framework through "differential rating". The Panel's report acknowledges some of the issues, including that the use of differential rates are "poorly justified" in some cases. The Panel will lodge a final report to the Minister for Local Government in September.

NSW GOVT TO TAKE ACTION TO REVERSE ADT DECISION ON CCTV CAMERAS

The NSW Premier, Barry O'Farrell, has announced action to reverse a decision by the Administrative Decisions Tribunal decision forcing local councils to cease using closed-circuit television cameras in public places. The NSW Government will introduce a regulation under the *Privacy Act* to provide an exemption for local councils on public safety grounds. Mr O'Farrell described the ADT decision as "terrible" and "absurd" and drew attention to the role CCTV cameras had played in identifying the murderer of ABC journalist Jill Meagher and identifying the Boston Marathon bombers. Mr O'Farrell said "public safety had to be paramount" ([Shop Talk 4/10/12](#)).

WESTFIELD SYDNEY WINS PCA / RIDER LEVETT BUCKNALL AWARD

Westfield Sydney has won the Redpath Partners Award for *Best Shopping Centre Development* at the [2013 Property Council of Australia / Rider Levett Bucknall Innovation & Excellence Awards](#). Click [here](#) to view the winners in all categories.

SCCA AND ICSC SIGN AGREEMENT TO WORK MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia (SCCA) and the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) have signed a Collaboration Agreement, pledging a closer working relationship. The Agreement was signed this week at the ICSC's annual convention, RECon, in Las Vegas by the Chairman of SCCA, Steven Sewell, and the Chairman of ICSC, Brad Hutensky. Under the agreement, all SCCA members will automatically become ICSC Members and receive all the privileges provided by ICSC. The SCCA has agreed to work closely with the ICSC to develop co-branded networking events, educational programs, study tours, publications and research projects of benefit to Australia and the international retail real estate industry. The SCCA has also agreed to assist ICSC in playing a leadership role in fostering the development of the shopping centre industry in the Asia-Pacific region. Mr Sewell said the formal collaboration with the ICSC was the fulfillment of a long-standing objective of the SCCA. "Our industry is global in reach and the ICSC plays an important role in fostering and developing the shopping centre and retail industries around the world. SCCA is proud to be part of the ICSC's international 'family'. This agreement will give our industry greater exposure to international trends, research, global markets, international events and other industry networking opportunities", Mr Sewell said. Australia joins a number of other national shopping centre councils in fostering a closer relationship with the ICSC. Agreements were also signed this week at RECon with the British Council of Shopping Centres, French Council of Shopping Centres and the Shopping Centres Association of India. These join the German Shopping Centre Council which last year signed a similar agreement. The ICSC is the global trade association of the shopping centre industry and has more than 60,000 members in 90 countries.