



# SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE  
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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[Previous Editions](#)

## LONG-AWAITED NEW PLANNING BILL INTRODUCED INTO NSW PARLIAMENT

The NSW Minister for Planning, Brad Hazzard MP, achieved a major milestone this week when he introduced into Parliament the long-awaited [Planning Bill 2013](#), intended to introduce a new land use planning, development assessment and infrastructure contributions system for NSW. The Bill is a key element of the Government's planning platform at the 2011 State election. Mr Hazzard stated in Parliament this week that the Bill "will bring NSW out of the Dark Ages of planning and into a modern, responsive system that places power back in the hands of communities and delivers on our election commitments". While Mr Hazzard has consistently stressed the new system will elevate strategic planning – which should be applauded – the Bill provides little comfort in some areas. New NSW Planning Policies are proposed, which will include an Employment Policy (which will include a retail component), to guide lower order regional, sub-regional and local plans. However the Bill has removed some elements that were in the Exposure Draft Bill which potentially means that such Policies cannot have provisions which relate to development assessment. While an improved focus on strategic planning is welcome, a focus on development assessment is also necessary, given some of the road-blocks to retail development at the local council level, which will take some time (and government commitment) to influence and change. Even where retail is clearly proposed to grow – which is often highlighted in a regional and local plan – councils can then impose local restrictions that make the achievement of such growth cumbersome and costly (such as floor space caps, urban design, use mixes and infrastructure contributions). It is hoped the Government pays attention to such commercial development issues, as it seems to do for housing. The Bill is expected to be strongly debated, particularly in the Legislative Council, and may possibly be referred to a parliamentary committee for closer examination.

## AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND 2013 SHOPPING CENTRE MARKETING AWARDS

The 2013 *Australia and New Zealand Shopping Centre Marketing Awards* will be presented at the Awards Dinner at Doltone House, Hyde Park, in Sydney next Thursday 31 October. More than 270 people have already registered for what will be a great night of celebration and industry networking. Tables and individual tickets for the Awards Dinner can still be obtained [here](#).

## BILL SHORTEN ASSUMES OPPOSITION SMALL BUSINESS RESPONSIBILITY

The Federal Leader of the Opposition, Bill Shorten MP, has assumed overall responsibility for small business matters in the [Opposition Shadow Ministry](#). Bernie Ripoll MP is Shadow Minister Assisting the Leader for Small Business and Julie Owens MP is the Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business. Chris Bowen MP is Shadow Minister for Competition, as well as Shadow Treasurer.

## NEW EDITION OF INSIDE RETAIL MAGAZINE IS NOW AVAILABLE

The October/November edition of [Inside Retail Magazine](#) is now available, with a feature on AMP Capital's redevelopment of Sydney's Macquarie Centre and the Top 50 Most Powerful Retailers. Subscriptions (\$59.95 a year) are available at: [subs@octomedia.com.au](mailto:subs@octomedia.com.au) or (02) 9901 1800.

## RECON ASIA 2013 WILL BE HELD IN BEIJING FROM 1–3 DECEMBER

The ICSC's RECon Asia, the region's most prestigious gathering of shopping center and retailing professionals, will be held in Beijing from 1-3 December. The 2013 Asia Pacific Shopping Centre Awards will also be presented at RECon. The conference program and other details are [here](#) and registration can be done [here](#).