



# SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE  
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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[Previous Editions](#)

## NSW PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO THE LAND VALUATION SYSTEM

The NSW Government has released its [response](#) to the Joint Standing Committee on the Office of the Valuer-General's final report on the [Inquiry into the Land Valuation System \(Shop Talk 9/5/13\)](#). The Government has agreed with 18 (out of 29) recommendations; disagreed with two; and found the need for further work and consultation on nine issues. This includes further consideration on a key recommendation by SCCA in relation to valuation reviews. The Government has not, however, responded to the Committee's only finding that the existing unimproved land valuation basis of the system should be retained, rather than moving to a capital improved valuation methodology. We assume this indicates support for the finding but further clarification will be sought from the Government. A critical area for further investigation relates to the Committee's recommendation to establish a Valuation Commission to be responsible for the current functions of the Valuer-General and Land and Property Information. A step away from the Valuer-General function would be inconsistent with other jurisdictions including Queensland, where the independent Valuer-General position was reinstated in 2010. We will be seeking further clarification of the Government's response.

## WINNERS OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RETAIL PROPERTY AWARDS

Congratulations to Rundle Place shopping centre in Adelaide (owned by the Pacific Group), which won the Gold Award for Excellence at the Property Council's 2013 South Australian Retail Property Awards last Saturday. David West of Premier Retail Marketing was named the 'WJ McCallum Award' recipient for significant contribution to the industry in SA. Nadine Wessel, Retail Manager at Westfield Marion, was named the Young Achiever of the Year. A full list of the winners is available [here](#).

## THIRTY NINE QUEENSLAND LOCAL GOVT AREAS TO BE VALUED THIS YEAR

The Queensland Valuer-General, Neil Bray, has announced 39 local government areas will be valued (for rating and land tax purposes) this year. The areas include Brisbane, Gold Coast, Moreton Bay, Cairns, Gympie, Toowoomba and Bundaberg. The new valuations have to be issued before 31 March 2014 and will become effective on 30 June 2014. Where an LGA is not valued this year, the most recent annual valuation remains in force until the next annual valuation is undertaken. A full list of the LGAs to be valued this year is available [here](#).

## FAIR WORK OMBUDSMAN AUDIT OF CLEANING INDUSTRY NOT YET COMPLETE

The Fair Work Ombudsman is conducting the *National Cleaning Services Follow Up Campaign 2013* ([Shop Talk 13/12/12](#) & [25/4/13](#)). This is an audit of compliance within the cleaning industry with the *Cleaning Services Award* and the *Fair Work Act* and *Regulations* and is a follow up to the *National Cleaning Services Campaign 2010-11*. It is understood the FWO audit has not yet been finalised and the report is unlikely to be publicly released until late 2013 or early 2014.

## TASMANIA BANS LIGHT-WEIGHT PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS FROM 1 NOVEMBER

Following on from the ACT Government ([Shop Talk 27/10/11](#)), the Tasmanian Government has now enacted the [Plastic Shopping Bags Ban Act 2013](#) which came into force on 1 November 2013. All retailers are banned from supplying light-weight, non-biodegradable shopping bags to shoppers. Also "a retailer must not give to a person information about the composition of a plastic shopping bag, [that] is false or misleading". Fines for non-compliance are hefty. Further information, including about which plastic bags are permitted and which are banned, can be found [here](#).