



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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INFRASTRUCTURE CHARGES REVIEWS UNDERWAY IN THREE STATES

Reviews of infrastructure charges (or development contributions) continue across various states, with each jurisdiction at a different stage of the review process ([Shop Talk 16/5/13](#)). The Queensland Government has recently re-convened its stakeholder working group (which includes the Shopping Centre Council) to progress the reform agenda, following the consideration of submissions on a Discussion Paper which closed on 9 August ([Shop Talk 4/7/13](#)). As part of the consultation process, the Shopping Centre Council, in partnership with the Property Council, provided the Government with analysis which highlights the economic and government revenue benefits of construction and development projects. The NSW Government has commenced meetings of its Contributions Taskforce (which includes the Shopping Centre Council) to provide advice on the proposed reforms. The framework for the new contributions system is outlined in the Planning Bill, introduced to Parliament on 22 October, which is still before the Legislative Council for consideration. Of concern, Infrastructure Contribution Principles contained in the previous Exposure Draft Bill have been removed from the Bill, with no explanation. The removal of these principles, which provided direction and safeguards on issues such as nexus, apportionment, affordability and reasonable costs, are a major concern particularly in light of the proposed new Regional Infrastructure Contribution (RIC) which is an entirely new levy which could make development even more challenging. The Victorian Government is still to release its response to the Ministerial Advisory Committee's report on its new standard development contributions framework. However the new framework is referenced in various sections of the Draft Melbourne Metropolitan Strategy released for comment in early October ([Shop Talk 17/10/13](#)).

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT STREAMLINES TRADING HOURS APPLICATIONS

Under Queensland's highly regulated trading hours laws, applications for variations to trading hours require a full bench of three commissioners of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. The Government has now introduced legislation, part of a [broader Bill](#), which will permit such matters to be heard by a single commissioner unless the vice-president considers a full bench to be appropriate. Attorney-General, Jarrod Bleijie MP, noted in his [second reading speech](#): "Allowing for less complex trading hours matters to be dealt with by a single commissioner will help expedite the determination of trading hours orders, alleviate costs incurred by the parties and provide for a more efficient use of QIRC resources." The Bill has been referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

PROPERTY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA / RIDER LEVETT BUCKNALL AWARDS NOW OPEN

Nominations are open for the Property Council of Australia / Rider Levett Bucknall 2014 *Innovation & Excellence Awards*. These awards include the *Redpath Partners Award for Best Shopping Centre Development*, recognising the efficient use of capital in a new or refurbished shopping centre development. This is open to developments or redevelopments that have been completed in the last five years and which have been operating for at least one year as at 31 December 2013. Further details, including on how to nominate, are available [here](#).

PROPERTY COUNCIL RETAIL BREAKFAST IN BRISBANE ON 26 NOVEMBER

The Property Council, Qld Division, has a Retail Breakfast on 26 November, focusing on developments in retail analytics and the opportunities for retail, marketing and development. Click [here](#) for information and register online [here](#).