



# SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE  
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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## WHAT PROMPTED SENATOR XENOPHON'S NATIONAL RETAIL LEASING INQUIRY?

The Senate Economics References Committee inquiry ([Shop Talk 26/6/14](#)) into 'the need for a national approach to retail leasing arrangements', at the instigation of Senator Nick Xenophon, seems an odd use of the Senate's time, given the volume of Budget and other legislation with which the new Senate is now dealing. This issue was thoroughly examined by the Productivity Commission in its 2008 inquiry into the market for retail tenancy leases and the Commission made recommendations on how this could be achieved. These recommendations have been ignored by Federal and State Governments and there is no reason to believe their interest will be activated by this inquiry. The Senate Committee's [terms of reference](#) then veer off into minutiae of state retail tenancy legislation, matters which have largely become *passé*, even in state retail tenancy reviews. The other odd thing is apparently not even the retailer associations were pressing for such an inquiry. We wonder if we can detect the hand of Stirling Griff in the establishment of this inquiry. Mr Griff was Senator Xenophon's running mate at the last election and is a long-time adviser. Prior to his involvement in politics, Mr Griff was executive director of the Australian Retailers Association, South Australia, when the ARA collapsed in 2005. Submissions close on 28 August and the Committee is due to report by 30 October 2014.

## NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE NATIONAL SHOPPING CENTRE MARKETING AWARDS

Nominations for the 2014 *Shopping Centre Council of Australia Marketing Awards* are now open and will close on Friday 8 August. Further details and entry forms can be accessed on the Awards [website](#). The awards dinner will be held on Wednesday 22 October 2014 at the Ivy Ballroom in Sydney. Click [here](#) for tickets to the awards dinner.

## JEWELLERS ASSOCIATION MOVES TO ESTABLISH A RETAIL TENANCY DATABASE

The Jewellers Association is proposing to establish a retail tenancy database for use by members in lease negotiations. The JAA is seeking [authorisation](#) by the ACCC, under the *Competition and Consumer Act*. We're not sure why authorisation is needed since it is hard to see how this would result in anti-competitive conduct. The Shopping Centre Council has argued that lease registers should be a responsibility of retailer associations, rather than being an financial imposition on taxpayers or on landlords ([Shop Talk 10/10/13](#)). For this reason we have [advised](#) the ACCC that we do not oppose the application for authorisation lodged by the JAA. Interestingly 'the need for a national lease register' is listed as an item in the terms of reference of the Senate Inquiry, referred to above. The JAA's initiative should mean this item does not have to take up much of the Senate Committee's time.

## SCCA SUBMISSION TO NSW IPART INQUIRY INTO LICENSING REFORM

One of the major contributions to microeconomic reform is doing away with unnecessary and costly licensing. This is even more important now following the abandonment of the sensible proposed national occupational licensing system. The NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal has produced a draft report '[Reforming licensing in NSW](#)'. The Shopping Centre Council has made a [submission](#) to IPART on the draft report.

## CHANGED DATES FOR ICSC RECON IN LAS VEGAS ON 17-20 MAY 2015

The International Council of Shopping Centers' annual *RECon* will be held in Las Vegas from 17 to 20 May 2015. This is a slight change from previously advertised dates. Full details are available on the [RECon website](#).