



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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[Previous Editions](#)

BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL PARKING TASKFORCE SUBMISSION

The Shopping Centre Council has lodged a submission to [Brisbane City Council's Parking Taskforce](#), chaired by the Deputy Mayor and Chairman of Council's Infrastructure Committee, Councillor Adrian Schinner, which is currently reviewing Council's parking policies and practices. Council has received more than [1,000 submissions](#). While the review is focused on Council's operations, we have raised the need for Council to properly consult with shopping centre car park owners, operators and developers in the event that private car parks are impacted by the review. The importance of shopping centre car parks to both retailers and shoppers can often get lost in public policy discussions; treated as if they are a free public utility or as if the rights of non-shopping centre users should outweigh the rights of retailers and shoppers. Car parks are very expensive to build and maintain. We have previously seen challenges to the ability of shopping centre car park operators to properly manage their car parks. We are seeking to ensure this review won't result in additional imposts on car park operations.

WA ECONOMIC REGULATION AUTHORITY RECOMMENDS TRADING HOURS REFORM

The Economic Regulation Authority, in the final report of its [Inquiry into Microeconomic Reform in Western Australia](#), has confirmed its draft recommendation to effectively deregulate trading hours ([Shop Talk 16/4/14](#)). The ERA has recommended that retail trading hours be deregulated in WA with the exception of Christmas Day, ANZAC Day morning and Good Friday. These are the same trading hours as exist in Victoria and Tasmania. The ERA said there was no justification for retaining restrictions on retail trading hours. "Consumer choice, rather than arbitrary Government regulation, should determine which shops open and when."

TICKETS ON SALE FOR SYDNEY LUNCHEON WITH ICSC CHAIRMAN ON 15 AUGUST 2014

Tickets are on sale to the Sydney [industry luncheon](#) on Friday 15 August 2014 to be addressed by the Chairman of the International Council of Shopping Centers, [Robert \(Bob\) Welanetz](#). Click [here](#) to book tickets.

UNITED STATES STILL NO CLOSER TO IMPOSING SALES TAX ON ONLINE SALES

It is now more than a year since the US Senate passed the *Marketplace Fairness Act* which would permit States to impose sales tax on online retailers ([Shop Talk 16/5/13](#)). Since then the legislation, which overcomes a Supreme Court ruling which has prevented or limited States imposing sales tax on online and catalogue retailers ([Shop Talk 9/6/11](#)), has languished in the House of Representatives. Recently there was a flurry of activity in the House when supporters sought to attach this measure to legislation extending the *Internet Tax Freedom Act*, which prevents Internet access taxes, and which is due to expire on 1 November 2014. These moves, however, came to nothing in the House. Now supporters of the *Marketplace Fairness Act* are hoping to take the same action when the *Internet Tax Freedom Act* is considered in the Senate.

FINALISTS ANNOUNCED IN THE QUEENSLAND RETAIL PROPERTY AWARDS

The [finalists](#) have been announced in the 2014 Queensland Retail Property Awards. Click [here](#) to book your tickets for the celebration Gala Dinner on Friday 8 August at Brisbane City Hall.

VICTORIAN AND TASMANIAN SHOPPING CENTRE DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE

The Victorian and Tasmanian Shopping Centre Directory for 2014, with detailed information on individual centres, is now available. Orders can be made via the Property Council's [Bookshop](#) page.