



# SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE  
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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## VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT PROCEEDS WITH REAL ESTATE LICENSING EXEMPTIONS

THE Victorian Government this week [announced](#) it will proceed with sensible exemptions from real estate licensing requirements for agents/managers who lease or manage on behalf of large commercial property owners. The announcement was [welcomed by](#) the Shopping Centre Council's Chairman, Steven Sewell. This was first announced in January 2014 following a review by the independent Red Tape Commissioner, John Lloyd ([Shop Talk 30/1/14](#)). Victoria now joins Queensland in removing this unnecessary and costly business regulation ([Shop Talk 21/11/13](#) & [8/5/14](#)). These reforms:

- Have no effect on residential or rural property and therefore do not affect home owners, renters, farmers, ordinary consumers or residential real estate agents.
- Do not affect retail tenants who remain fully protected by the *Retail Leases Act*. The reforms are supported by the National Retail Association and the Australian Retailers Association.
- Will reduce the cost of doing business in Victoria, saving around \$2.6 million every year and result in savings to Victorian taxpayers.
- Will affect fewer than 400 commercial properties in Victoria (less than 1%).
- Will affect fewer than 2% of commercial property sales. More than 98% of such sales will still be required to be done by a real estate agent.

Real estate licenses teach nothing about selling, managing or leasing shopping centres and offices. It is nonsense regulation. Opposition to the reforms by the Real Estate Institute Victoria (REIV) is irrational and irrelevant. The REIV does not represent the 'consumers' protected by licensing (i.e. large commercial property owners); nor does it represent tenants. We assume it is simply seeking to protect its own interests by maintaining anti-competitive barriers to entry to its industry ([Shop Talk 22/5/14](#)).

## SUBMISSION LODGED WITH SOUTH AUSTRALIAN EXPERT PLANNING PANEL

The Shopping Centre Council has lodged a submission with the South Australian Expert Panel on Planning Reform in response to their recent report, [Our Ideas for Reform](#). Broad support is offered to the reforms outlined, including the proposed State Planning Commission, Regional Planning Board and State Planning Code. We have raised concern with proposals for a "re-think" the centres hierarchy, which has no supporting evidence, and proposed new tools for infrastructure funding and delivery.

## SHOPPING CENTRE COUNCIL MARKETING AWARDS CELEBRATED AT GALA EVENT

Congratulations to QIC Global Real Estate's Westpoint in Sydney (Michelle Clark), whose marketing campaign 'Fashion Ink' won the 'Sabina Rust Memorial Prize for Campaign of the Year' in the 2014 Shopping Centre Council of Australia Marketing Awards. The awards were celebrated at a sold-out Gala Dinner last night. Westpoint Marketing Manager, Michelle Clark, accepted the cash prize of \$20,000. Runner Up in the overall award was the GPT Group for 'Rooftop Tennis Club Courts Sales' at Melbourne Central. A full list of the category winners and runners up is available [here](#). Congratulations to all finalists and thank you to the marketing teams of the 104 shopping centres which entered the awards with a very high calibre of marketing campaigns in their submissions.

## JOHN BARILARO IS THE NEW SMALL BUSINESS MINISTER IN NSW

John Barilaro is the new NSW Small Business Minister. Mr Barilaro, who served as the Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business since May 2014, was elevated to Cabinet following the resignation of the former Minister for Small Business (and Deputy Premier), Andrew Stoner.