



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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NRA APPLICATION FOR SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND TRADING HOURS REFORMS

The National Retail Association, supported by the Shopping Centre Council, has lodged an application to simplify trading hours regulation in South East Queensland (SEQ). The application, which must be heard by the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission, seeks consistent opening hours from 7am to 9pm, Monday to Saturday, throughout SEQ. The application does not seek to change trading hours on Sundays or on public holidays or to change trading hours outside SEQ. This does not force retailers to trade additional hours – it will simply permit them to do so if they wish. This will also reduce red tape and confusion by rolling 10 different trading hours zones within SEQ into one.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR TRADING HOURS AROUND AUSTRALIA

The National Retail Association has produced this [handy guide](#) to public holiday trading arrangements around Australia over Christmas and New Year. Since the NRA Guide was produced the Western Australian Government has [announced](#) extended trading hours for the Perth metropolitan area over the December period, beginning on 5 December.

REPORT OF SENATE INQUIRY INTO RETAIL LEASING DELAYED

The Senate Economics References Committee's inquiry into the need for a national approach into retail leasing ([Shop Talk 26/6/14](#) & [18/9/14](#)) has delayed its reporting deadline from 30 October (last week) until the '8th day of sitting day of 2015'. This means this inquiry won't report until at least March of next year. The Shopping Centre Council, one of only 29 [submitters](#) to the inquiry, made clear that a national approach to retail leasing should only come in place of, not in addition to, the present system of state and territory retail lease regulation.

DIRECT ACTION EMISSIONS REDUCTION FUND THROUGH THE SENATE

Last week the *Carbon Farming Initiative Amendment Bill 2014* passed the Senate, paving the way for the [establishment the \\$2.55 billion Emissions Reduction Fund](#). The Federal Department of the Environment has been consulting on the mechanics of the ERF and the Shopping Centre Council recently provided a [submission](#) on the draft [Carbon Credits \(Carbon Farming Initiative\) Methodology \(Commercial Buildings\) Determination 2014](#), the NABERS baseline methodology accessible to owners of existing commercial buildings seeking to obtain credits from the Fund. We have outlined a number of concerns with the draft methodology, including its apparent inability to accommodate building expansions over the crediting period. We have also noted the high barrier to entry for commercial buildings, specifically the coupling of a degrading emissions baseline with large annual minimum abatement requirements. No timeframe has been set for the finalisation of the draft methodology.

VERY FEW REAL ESTATE AGENTS ARE AFFECTED BY VICTORIAN REFORMS

By our calculations fewer than 5% of the total number of real estate agents in Victoria will be affected by the proposed exemptions from real estate licensing for large commercial property owners ([Shop Talk 30/10/14](#)). More than half of these would be working for 'related entity' managers who do not want to be licensed (an exemption which the REIV says it supports), as opposed to being in an external agency. Most of the remainder will be employed by the large commercial real estate agencies (such as JLL and Savills) and it will be a decision for those agencies whether they will still require staff involved in large commercial property to hold a license (even though it won't be needed).