



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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NEW SYDNEY METROPOLITAN GROWTH STRATEGY RELEASED

The NSW Government has released [A Plan for Growing Sydney](#), the new metropolitan strategy to guide growth and development. A key element is a focus on Sydney's western suburbs, including establishing Parramatta as "a major CBD...for job and world-class shopping and entertainment". A strong focus is also given to Regional Cities and Strategic Centres such as Penrith, Campbelltown, Liverpool, Rouse Hill, Macquarie Park, Bankstown, Castle Hill, Bondi Junction and Burwood. These areas have been recognised as Sydney's "largest and most important hubs for business and employment", and priority locations for employment, retail, housing, services and mixed-uses. Locating jobs in the 30-40 largest centres is a key principle of the Plan to provide the "greatest benefits to the city's overall productivity". The Plan acknowledges implementation as an up-front issue and includes 59 specific actions, most of which will be overseen by the main implementation vehicle; the Greater Sydney Commission. Work has commenced to establish the Commission over the next six months.

DIRE PREDICTIONS ABOUT TRADING HOURS REFORMS NEVER COME TRUE

[Inside Retail](#) has been running items from old editions and they make interesting reading. Recently it repeated an item (from August 1990) about splits in retailing ranks over trading hours reforms, amid predictions of impending doom and gloom. The argument in 1990 was over extending trading hours in some States to permit shops to be able to open on Saturday afternoon. Saturday afternoon trading was going to see the end of small shops and bring on other economic ills. Bear this in mind next time you read of dire predictions of economic doom from extending Sunday trading hours or extending public holiday trading.

RETAIL SHOP LEASES ACT REVIEW IN QUEENSLAND A CONSULTATIVE REVIEW

The Shopping Centre Council has lodged a submission with the Queensland Parliament's Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee which is examining the *Retail Shop Leases Amendment Bill 2014* ([Shop Talk 26/11/14](#)). We have stressed the Bill is the product of a genuinely consultative process, during which all stakeholders have been given plenty of opportunity to put their views. The process began with a Discussion Paper (and public submissions), followed by an Options Paper (and further submissions). This was followed by a broadly-based Reference Group which systematically worked its way through the options and the submissions and prepared a report to the Government. No significant stakeholder can claim that their views were not taken into account. The Government then sought stakeholder views on a Draft Bill and now, even after the Bill has been introduced, the Government is encouraging submissions to the relevant Parliamentary Committee examining the Bill. The Queensland Review should be a model for other States.

EDUCATIONAL COURSES OFFERED BY THE PROPERTY COUNCIL ACADEMY IN 2015

The Property Council Academy will be running various industry courses throughout 2015. See their 2015 calendar [here](#). The first course, held in Sydney on 4 March, is *Property Development Introduction*. See further details [here](#) and register [here](#).

PROPERTY COUNCIL, WA DIVISION, RUNS SEMINAR IN PERTH ON ACTIVITY CENTRES

The Property Council, WA Division, will run a half day seminar on the Role & Scope of Activity Centres, discussing design, transport and urban planning. This will be run in Perth on 10 March 2015. Click [here](#) for detail and click [here](#) to register.