



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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SHOPPING CENTRES WELCOME BOXING DAY COMMITMENT IN NSW

NSW Treasurer, Andrew Constance, this week [announced](#) that a re-elected Coalition Government would amend the *Retail Trading Act* to allow all shops across NSW to trade on Boxing Day. Under the announcement staff could not be forced to work on Boxing Day (as is the case for current exemptions under the Act). Christmas Day, Good Friday and the morning of Anzac Day would remain restricted trading days. Delivering this reform would bring to an end to outdated segmentation which sees all shops in Sydney's CBD and a number of designated regional locations allowed to trade, while placing restrictions on major retailers across greater Sydney (including the likes of Parramatta, Chatswood, Rouse Hill, Campbelltown/Macarthur and Castle Hill), and regional areas (including Wollongong and Newcastle). The SCCA joined Treasurer Constance at the announcement, held in western Sydney, and issued a [media statement](#) in support of the proposed change. Noting that shopping centres outside of the exempt locations can't justify opening their doors on Boxing Day (a day which is otherwise known as being a great day for shopping), we stressed that the current restrictions are out-of-date and not in-line with consumer preferences. Much like the concern regarding voluntary staffing, we highlighted that retailers also couldn't be forced to trade. A quick calculation revealed that this change could see an additional 1.1 million square metres of retail space open on Boxing Day in Sydney's major centres alone. The Coalition Government's attempt to amend the Act in its early days in office failed due to a lack of support in the NSW Upper House. The new Leader of the NSW Opposition, Luke Foley, while not explicitly ruling out supporting the amendment, has [commented](#) that he considers Christmas to be "sacred" and doesn't want to see employees forced to work on Christmas Day to stock shelves for Boxing Day.

LAND VALUATIONS FOR 2015 ISSUED THIS WEEK BY QUEENSLAND VALUER GENERAL

The Queensland Valuer General has issued new land valuations, which will take effect on 30 June 2015 for the purposes of local government rates and State land tax. Land owners can now download the 2015 [Land Valuations Globe](#) via the Queensland Government's Business and Industry Portal website. The Valuer General has also issued the 2015 [Property Market Movement Report](#) which summarises movements in property markets in the 29 local government areas across Queensland which were part of this year's valuation cycle. Objections to land valuations must be received within 60 days.

INCREASED PRIZE MONEY FOR SCCA SHOPPING CENTRE MARKETING AWARDS

The Board of Directors of the Shopping Centre Council of Australia has decided to increase the prize money for the Sabina Rust Memorial Award, at the [SCCA Marketing Awards](#), to \$25,000. In return the winning company will be obligated to send a senior staff member to the following year's ICSC RECon Asia, which includes a marketing stream and also incorporates the ICSC Asia -Pacific Marketing Awards. In addition the SCCA will donate \$3,000 each to the nominated charities involved in the winners on the night of the three 'Community' marketing campaigns. The Awards Dinner will be held this year on 27 October at the Ivy in Sydney.

SAVE THE DATE: ICSC ASIA RECON TO BE HELD IN TAIWAN ON 19-22 OCTOBER 2015

This year's International Council of Shopping Centers RECon Asia will be held in Taipei on 20-22 October. This will also be a great opportunity to learn about the shopping centre industry and retail market not just in Taiwan, one of Asia's tiger economies, but throughout the Asian region. Further details will be provided when finalised.