



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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VICTORIAN INFRASTRUCTURE CHARGES BILL TABLED IN PARLIAMENT

The Victorian Planning Minister, Richard Wynne, this week tabled the [Planning and Environment Amendment \(Infrastructure Contributions\) Bill](#) in Parliament. A significant body of consultation on the reform of local infrastructure charges was undertaken during the term of the previous Government, including the release of a position paper and the establishment of a Standard Contributions Advisory Committee. It is pleasing that the new Government has maintained the momentum on the reform of infrastructure. There are a range of key issues which still need to be resolved in the new infrastructure charges system, including the final levy rates and indexation mechanisms. The Minister has [announced](#) that an Implementation Reference Group will be set up to advise on these key issues.

QUEENSLAND OPPOSITION MOVES ON PLANNING REFORM

Only weeks after the Queensland Government released a planning reform Discussion Paper, which notes the Government's commitment to tabling a new Planning Bill by October 2015 ([Shop Talk 28/5/15](#)), the Queensland Opposition last week tabled its own [planning reform Bill](#). As Shadow Planning Minister, Tim Nicholls, noted in his speech to Parliament, the Bill substantially mirrors the planning reform Bill tabled by the LNP prior to its January election defeat. The Opposition's Bill has been referred to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee for [review](#). While several weeks ago there was no clear path forward for planning reform in Queensland, it now seems that there is a reform Bill being scrutinised and another reform Bill due before the end of the year. This sets the stage for an interesting few months of consultation and stakeholder engagement regarding planning reform in Queensland.

WA CONSULTING ON 2015 CHRISTMAS TRADING HOURS EXTENSIONS

The West Australian Government is seeking feedback on extended trading hours across the Perth Metropolitan area for the 2015 Christmas period. Under the *Retail Trading Hours Act 1987*, the Minister for Commerce has the ability to extend trading hours in the 28 day period to 1 January. The Shopping Centre Council monitored the 2014 Christmas extended trading hours period and provided feedback to the Government in March this year ([Shop Talk, 26/3/2015](#)). Based on shopping centre data, our feedback to the Government highlighted that extended trading hours were embraced by Perth's shoppers and retailers, including small business retailers, and could be considered a success. Our feedback also highlighted that most people conducted their shopping later in the month as Christmas Day drew closer. We will be reiterating this feedback for consideration in the 2015 decision.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE REVIEW OF PREMISES STANDARDS

Federal Department of Industry and Science is currently undertaking a [review](#) of the *Disability (Access to Premises - Building) Standards 2010* (the Premises Standards). The Premises Standards came into effect in 2011 as a mechanism to, among other things; provide certainty to developers that compliance with the standards would ensure they would not be subject to complaint under the *Disability Discrimination Act*.

SCCA CHAIRMAN HEADS UP FEDERATION/NOVION MERGED ENTITY

This week the merger of Federation Centres and Novion Property Group was implemented. Steven Sewell, the CEO and MD of the new \$22 billion merged entity, is also the SCCA Chairman.