

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

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WA COMMERCE MINISTER EXTENDS TRADING HOURS FOR UPCOMING PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

WA Commerce Minister, Michael Mischin MLC, has [approved](#) extended public holiday trading hours for Labour Day (6 March) and Easter Monday (17 April). The holidays fall before and after the 11 March election, respectively. Relevant retail businesses will be allowed to trade from 8am to 6pm. In his announcement, the Minister confirmed that the Government will continue with their plan to relax trading hour restrictions, if re-elected on 11 March. This includes the Government's commitment, initially announced in August 2015, to introduce widespread 9am opening (from the current 11am) on Sundays ([Shop Talk, 27/8/15](#)). The Government has also committed to this being a priority upon re-election. We continue to support the WA Government's plan to liberalise trading hours.

SCCA PROVIDES FEEDBACK ON NSW PROPOSALS TO INCREASE REGULATORY BURDEN

The Shopping Centre Council has lodged a submission to the NSW Government's [Draft Plan to Save NSW Energy and Money: Energy efficient buildings – Commercial buildings](#). The draft Plan sits under the Government's broader *Climate Change Policy Framework*, and proposes various measures for businesses. Our submission outlines five critical issues with the draft Plan. These issues are the result of the clear ignorance about shopping centres and their relationship with retailers demonstrated throughout the draft Plan. We are concerned about the potential for increased regulation, including via the imposition of ill-conceived standards for "large shopping malls". Public consultation on the draft Plan closed on 18 December 2016. The Government will be using the feedback received to develop three action plans for \$500 million of investment over five years in their three priority areas: accelerating advanced energy, national leadership in energy efficiency and preparing for climate change. We will monitor the outcome of the consultation over the coming months.

NSW CABINET RESHUFFLE: SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES, A FOCUS ON COUNTER TERRORISM

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian MP has [announced](#) her new Cabinet, with a number of changes relevant to our sector. Deputy Premier, John Barilaro MP, has retained the Small Business portfolio, which means he will continue to oversee the consideration of the *Retail Leases Amendment (Review) Bill* through the Parliament ([Shop Talk 11/11/16](#)). Deputy Liberal Leader, Dominic Perrottet MP, has taken over the Premier's former role as Treasurer and Minister for Industrial Relations; both critical for the pending Boxing Day trading review ([Shop Talk 25/11/16](#)) and the implementation of the Emergency Service Property Levy ([Shop Talk 10/12/15](#)). Anthony Roberts MP been appointed Minister for Planning. A new Counter Terrorism portfolio has been established, with Corrections Minister, David Elliott MP, assigned this portfolio. Gabrielle Upton MP has taken over the Environment, Local Government and Heritage portfolios and will assume responsibility for the Government's *Draft Plan to Save NSW Energy and Money* (see previous article), the container deposit scheme, and the Government's response to the IPART review of the local government rating system ([Shop Talk 25/8/16](#)).

MAREE ADSHEAD APPOINTED AS FIRST QLD SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION

Literally two days before Christmas, Queensland Small Business Minister, Leeanne Enoch MP, announced Maree Adshead as Queensland's first 'Small Business Champion'. This follows the initial announcement to create the position under the Government's *Advancing Small Business Strategy 2016-2020* ([Shop Talk, 30/6/16](#)). Federal Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman, Kate Carnell AO, welcomed the appointment, noting that Ms Adshead will join national discussions with other small business commissioners. We congratulate Ms Adshead on her appointment and look forward to working with her.

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