

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

THURSDAY 13 APRIL 2017

[SUBSCRIBE HERE](#)

GST LOW VALUE THRESHOLD BILL BEING REVIEWED BY SENATE ECONOMICS COMMITTEE

The [Treasury Laws Amendment \(GST Low Value Goods\) Bill 2017](#) has been referred to the Senate Economics Legislation Committee for review. The Bill, which was tabled in Parliament by the Federal Treasurer, Scott Morrison, in early February ([Shop Talk 24/2/17](#)), seeks to apply the GST to 'low-value' imported goods (currently, goods less than \$1,000 fall below the 'Low Value Threshold' and do not attract GST). This was a key measure under the 2016-17 Federal Budget, with a proposed 1 July 2017 implementation. While in-principle agreement has been reached between the Commonwealth and the states and territories on the need to close this GST loop-hole ([Shop Talk 27/8/15](#)), there is still resistance from some groups on both fundamental and implementation related issues, including the proposed 'vendor collection model' of GST collection. The Shadow Treasurer, Chris Bowen, has previously indicated the Opposition's in-principle support for the policy, but has cited implementation issues. The Shopping Centre Council has lodged a submission to the Committee to reiterate our support for the Bill, and support for any clarifications which will ensure implementation efficiency and rigour. The Committee is due to report on 9 May.

OMBUDSMAN RELEASES PAYMENT PRACTICES REPORT: VIC RELEASES FAIR PAYMENT CODE

The Federal Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman, Kate Carnell AO, has released the final report into the inquiry into payment times and practices – principally between 'large' organisations and small business - which has been provided to the Minister for Small Business, Michael McCormack, for consideration. Ms Carnell has made ten recommendations, including potential legislative changes to require 'larger businesses' (noted as ASX 100 companies and multinationals) to 'publicly disclose all of their payment times and practices and performance against those terms'. The report coincides with the Victorian Government's release this week of a draft voluntary [Fair Payment Code of Practice](#) for consultation, which includes a 30-day payment term, scheduled for a 1 July 2017 commencement.

TERRORISM INSURANCE ACT AMENDMENTS PASS PARLIAMENT

The [Treasury Laws Amendment \(2016 Measures No. 1\) Bill 2016](#), which amends the *Terrorism Insurance Act 2003* to clarify that losses as a result of declared terrorist incident involving chemical or biological means are covered by the terrorism reinsurance scheme administered by the Australian Reinsurance Pool Corporation, has passed the Federal Parliament. This reflects a recommendation in the triennial review of the scheme, which the Shopping Centre Council participated in ([Shop Talk, 17/12/15](#)). In her speech to the Parliament, the responsible Minister, Kelly O'Dwyer, noted that the Government was pursuing the clarification to ensure that "the terrorism reinsurance scheme operates as originally intended, that is, to provide insurance against a declared terrorist incident, including when carried out by chemical, biological or similar means".

EVIDENCE GIVEN TO PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON QLD TRADING HOURS

The Shopping Centre Council gave evidence this week to the Queensland Parliament's [inquiry](#) into the *Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill* ([Shop Talk 31/3/17](#)). Subject to the consideration of a number of otherwise minor amendments to the Bill, the Shopping Centre Council supports the Bill, despite having formed the view that the Government missed the opportunity to drive further, necessary reform of Queensland's trading hour regime ([Shop Talk 17/2/17](#)). There are still several strident opponents to the Bill which remain unconvinced of the benefits of the proposed reforms, which include standardising trading hours across south east Queensland, and regional areas. The Committee is due to report on 28 April.

INCREASED LICENCE TARIFFS FOR THE PUBLIC PERFORMANCE OF SONGS AND MUSIC VIDEOS

The Phonographic Performance Company of Australia has advised the Shopping Centre Council that, as of 1 July 2017, its tariff rates for licenses for protected sound recordings played as a general amenity or background music in shopping centres will increase. More information is available [here](#).

[PREVIOUS ISSUES](#)