

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

22 MARCH 2019

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TREASURER APPROVES RETAIL TRADE FOR EASTER MONDAY

In a welcome decision, the South Australian Treasurer, the Hon Rob Lucas, announced at the weekend his decision to grant an exemption under the *Shop Trading Hours Act 1977* to enable large retailers (non-exempt shops) to trade on Easter Monday across Adelaide this year. The exemption was published in this week's [Government Gazette](#). This decision will bring South Australia in line with every other state and territory and enable suburban stores to open from 11am to 5pm on Monday 22 April, if they so choose (noting that retailers cannot be 'forced' to trade). As stated in the Treasurer's [media release](#), the exemption follows "considerable demand and support from South Australian consumers and retailers for greater freedom of choice in trading hours." The Treasurer previously granted a similar exemption under the Act to enable trading on Boxing Day for the first time in 2018 ([ShopTalk 9/11/18](#)). In his recent decision, Mr Lucas pointed to the success of Boxing Day trading which resulted in consumer demand of 130,000 people visiting suburban retailers across Adelaide, in addition to traditional trading in the CBD. Trading hours reform was part of an election commitment made by the Marshall Government, however it failed to pass the Upper House last year ([ShopTalk 26/10/18](#)). The full Easter holiday trading hours for non-exempt shops (i.e. supermarkets over 400sqm and shops over 200sqm) in the CBD, Metropolitan shopping District and Glenelg Tourist Precinct are as follows: Good Friday (closed), Easter Saturday (regular trade until 5pm), Easter Sunday (11am to 5pm in the CBD, closed in Metropolitan Shopping District and Glenelg Tourist Precinct) and Easter Monday (11am to 5pm).

MUSIC TARIFF RATES TO INCREASE WITH CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Phonographic Performance Company of Australia Limited (PPCA) has notified the Shopping Centre Council that, consistent with usual practices, tariff rates will increase in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This will apply to all license fee invoices relating to periods after 1 July 2019, and generally equates to an increase of 1.8%.

NEW SOUTH WALES LABOR ANNOUNCES NEW POLICY FOR SHOPPING CENTRE CAR PARKS

In what could be described as a sneaky move, the NSW Parliamentary Budget Office has this week [published](#) the Opposition's (Labor's) election policy costings, which revealed that Labor has made an election commitment to change a key classification under the current NSW Parking Space Levy scheme. This policy was not announced, nor was our industry (including to the best of our knowledge key retailer groups such as the ARA and NRA) consulted or indeed advised regarding this commitment. Through changes to the [Parking Space Levy Regulation 2009](#), the districts of Chatswood, Chatswood West, St Leonards, Greenwich and Crows Nest are proposed to be elevated from the current 'Category 2' classification, to 'Category 1', effective from 1 July 2019. The effect of this change will see the removal of a current exemption for retail customer and employee parking in certain shopping centres, along with the introduction of a \$2,440 (current year charge) annual levy for each liable parking space. This will substantially impact relevant shopping centres, retailers and customers, and amounts to nothing more than a new parking tax. Over the forward estimates, it is proposed that this change will generate an additional \$67.4 million in revenue.

LATEST EDITION OF 'BIG GUNS' FROM SHOPPING CENTRE NEWS IS NOW AVAILABLE

The latest Shopping Centre News 'Big Guns' edition is now available. It includes the results from the 2018 annual survey of the performance of the largest Australian shopping centres by; (1) moving annual turnover (MAT); (2) centre productivity (MAT/sqm); and (3) specialty-store productivity (specialty MAT/sqm). This year's winners across each category were; Chadstone Shopping Centre (highest MAT; \$2.13 billion), GPT's Melbourne Central (MAT/sqm; \$14,763) and Westfield Sydney (specialty MAT/sqm; \$23,389). This year also saw the Vicinity Centres and Gandel-owned Chadstone in Melbourne become the first centre in Australia to achieve more than \$2 billion in MAT and Westfield Chermside inducted into the '\$1 billion club'. For more information, please see the [SCN website](#).

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