

# SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

15 NOVEMBER 2019

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## NEW CASUAL MALL LICENSING FACT SHEET RELEASED: AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Casual Mall Licensing Code Administration Committee (CAC), independently chaired by former Victorian and Australian Small Business Commissioner Mark Brennan, has developed and released a new [Fact Sheet: Casual Mall Licensing](#). The Fact Sheet provides prospective and sitting tenants with key information so they have appropriate awareness and understanding of the [Casual Mall Licensing Code of Practice](#) (the Code). Key elements of the Fact Sheet include; an overview of casual mall licensing, provisions of the Code including sightlines and dispute resolution, and information on the CAC. The Code ensures that the practice of casual mall licensing is fair and balanced to both shopping centre owners and retailers, whilst ensuring innovation through short term ('pop-up') retailing ([ShopTalk, 19/01/2018](#)). The CAC includes representatives from retailers and shopping centre owners including the Australian Retailers Association, National Retail Association, National Online Retailers Association, Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the Shopping Centre Council and its members Charter Hall, Scentre Group and Vicinity Centres. Both the [Code](#) and the [Fact Sheet](#) are available online.

## NEW VALUER GENERAL APPOINTED IN NEW SOUTH WALES BY MINISTER

New South Wales Minister for Water, Property and Housing, Melinda Pavey MP, has [announced](#) that Dr David Parker has been appointed as the State's new Valuer General. Acting Deputy Valuer General, Paul Chudleigh will act as Valuer General until Dr Parker takes up the post on 20 January 2020 for a seven year term. The Valuer General, an independent statutory officer, oversees the valuation of every parcel of land in NSW. Dr Parker is currently Acting Commissioner of the NSW Land and Environment Court, and an academic at the University of South Australia. The Shopping Centre Council is a member of the Land Valuation Advisory Group (LVAG) which monitors the quality of land valuations. We look forward to working with Dr Parker in the future. We acknowledge former Valuer General Simon Gilkes and Acting Valuer General Michael Parker and thank them both for their ongoing engagement with our industry.

## LATEST ABS RETAIL TURNOVER FIGURES HIGHLIGHT SLUGGISH SPENDING

The latest release ([September 2019](#)) of the monthly ABS Retail Trade data indicates that the overall month-on-month (m-o-m) trend estimate increased by 0.2 per cent, equal to (a revised) 0.2 per cent in August 2019. In trend terms, Retail Turnover increased by 2.4 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), equal to (a revised) 2.4 per cent in the prior corresponding period (pcp). In seasonally adjusted terms, the strongest growth was recorded for 'Other' retailing on a m-o-m basis (0.8 per cent), whilst 'Clothing, footwear and personal accessory' retailing recorded the strongest growth on a y-o-y basis (5.0 per cent). Seasonally adjusted Retail Turnover increased by 0.2 per cent in the month of September 2019, down from 0.4 per cent in August 2019. On a y-o-y basis, Retail Turnover increased by 2.5 per cent, equal to (a revised) 2.5 per cent in the pcp. In the quarter to September 2019, Chain Volume Measures decreased by 0.1 per cent, down from 0.1 per cent in the pcp. Retail Turnover is tracking ahead of Chain Volume Measures indicating that price inflation is the main driver of growth.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN EXTENDED 2019 CHRISTMAS TRADING HOURS ANNOUNCED

The South Australian Treasurer, Rob Lucas MLC, last week [announced](#) his declaration under the *Shop Trading Hours Act 1977* to grant extended trading hours for the 2019 Christmas period. This followed the Treasurer's previous [announcement](#) to grant 'midnight trading' on Black Friday (29 November 2019). The following extended hours have been declared: (1) midnight trading on Black Friday (29 November), for the first time; (2) from 9am (instead of 11am) to 5pm on the Sundays 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 December; (3) midnight trading (instead of 9pm) on Thursday 19, Friday 20, and Monday 23 December; (4) trading up to 6pm (instead of 5pm) on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 December; and (5) trading on Proclamation (Boxing) Day (26 December) (9am-5pm), for the second year running ([Shop Talk, 9/11/18](#)). There are no substitute public holidays in 2019. Shops cannot be forced to open during the extended trading hours.

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