

# SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

29 NOVEMBER 2019

[SUBSCRIBE HERE](#)

## CONGRATULATIONS DENNIS MICHAEL, QICGRE – WINNER OF THE 2019 FRANK LOWY FELLOWSHIP

The Shopping Centre Council is pleased to [announce](#) that Mr Dennis Michael, Head of Commercial, Brand iQ and New Business, QICGRE, has been awarded the Frank Lowy Fellowship for 2019. The Fellowship was established in recognition of the contribution made by Sir Frank Lowy AC to the Australian shopping centre industry. The Fellowship is sponsored by Scentre Group. The Fellowship is awarded to a talented person who has demonstrated distinction in their professional field and a commitment to shopping centre industry excellence. “Mr Michael has been awarded the Fellowship based on his leadership and delivery of commercial outcomes across mall media, experience, digital and content curation, and innovative approaches to retail leasing such as pop-up stores to encourage retailers to open their first physical locations”, said Mr Allen, Chairman of the Shopping Centre Council and CEO of Scentre Group. The judging panel has also awarded two High Commendations, being: Ms Erin Donnellon, Manager, Digital Delivery, ISPT and; Mr Nicholas Irvine, General Manager – Operations, Vicinity Centres. The 16 nominations received for 2019 were representative of the broad range of skills and roles relevant to the shopping centre industry, including centre management, marketing, leasing, operations, research, facilities management and investment management. The judging panel comprised of Peter Allen, CEO, Scentre Group; Susan MacDonald, Head of Retail, Mirvac; Andrew Byars, General Manager Property Investments, Perron Group; Anthony Mellowes, CEO, SCA Property Group and; Michael O’Brien, Managing Director, QICGRE. Nominations for the 2020 Fellowship will open in mid-2020. For more information, please visit the [Frank Lowy Fellowship website](#).

## JUDY O’CONNELL REAPPOINTED AS VICTORIAN SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONER

Congratulations to Judy O’Connell who has been [reappointed](#) as Victorian Small Business Commissioner (VSBC) until November 2022. Ms O’Connell was first appointed in November 2016 for a three-year term ([Shop Talk, 18/11/16](#)). The Shopping Centre Council looks forward to our continuing engagement with Ms O’Connell.

## SA LAND TAX REFORM BILL PASSES PARLIAMENT AMIDST SEVERAL CONCESSIONS

This week, the South Australian Parliament passed the [Land Tax \(Miscellaneous\) Amendment Bill 2019](#), with amendments made during the Committee stage in the Legislative Council. Several changes and concessions have been made during the consultation on the Bill, however the key principle of the Government introducing land-tax aggregation has been maintained. The new land-tax regime, including new thresholds and rates will apply from the 2020-2021 period. The SCCA is currently assessing the final package.

## ATO DRAFT RULING ON FRINGE BENEFITS TAX (FBT) – CAR PARKING BENEFITS

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) recently released its [Draft Taxation Ruling- Fringe benefits tax: car parking benefits](#) (draft Ruling) for consultation, which sets out ‘when the provision of car parking is a car parking benefit for the purposes of the *Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986*’. A final Ruling is scheduled to commence from 1 April 2020. The development of the draft Ruling follows what’s known as the ‘Qantas’ decisions in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and Federal Court which determined that Qantas was liable to pay the Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) in respect of the provision of certain car spaces. Submissions on the draft Ruling are due by 17 January 2020.

## DRAFT MELBOURNE INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL LAND USE PLAN CONSULTATION

The Victorian Government is currently exhibiting its [Draft Melbourne Industrial and Commercial Land Use Plan](#) (MICALUP). The MICALUP links predicted population growth with strategic planning. This includes predicted jobs growth for the category of “retail, accommodation, food and other” which has been used as a basis for setting commercial floorspace targets for Melbourne. These targets have been subdivided into six regions (as defined in [Plan Melbourne 2017-2050](#)). The Draft Plan also defines commercial and industrial land in terms of State, regional and local significance. Submissions on the Draft Plan are due by 31 December 2019.

[PREVIOUS ISSUES](#)