

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2015

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WA ANNOUNCES EXTENDED CHRISTMAS HOURS AND POSSIBILITY OF EARLY LEGISLATION

The WA Government has recently [announced](#) extended trading hours for both the 28 September Queen's Birthday public holiday and the Christmas period, which follows industry consultation in May and June. For the Christmas period, this includes 7am openings across the week, and 8am-6pm openings for Sundays (instead of the usual 11am-5pm) as well as Boxing Day. This announcement is also welcome given it is two months in advance of the equivalent announcement made last year, which will provide more time for shopping centres and retailers to prepare. Consistent with the WA Premier Barnett's legislative and policy priorities announced in a Parliamentary Statement in February, the Government is currently preparing amendments to the *Retail Trading Hours Act* to address other anomalies, including those that apply to hardware stores such as the strange designations of certain stores and goods that can and can't be sold (*Shop Talk* [26/2/15](#)).

In addition, just weeks after making an election pledge to enable widespread 9am opening on Sundays if re-elected in 2017, Premier Barnett has publicly stated that he may introduce legislation to this effect in this current term of Parliament (*Shop Talk* [27/8/15](#)). It has been reported that WA Opposition Leader, Mark McGowan, is currently consulting various groups on the Government's proposal.

JIM AND ROBERT McCONAGHY RECOGNISED AT QUEENSLAND RETAIL PROPERTY AWARDS

Congratulations to long-time Shopping Centre Council members Jim McConaghy, McConaghy Properties and Robert McConaghy, McConaghy Group, for being joint recipients of the prestigious President's Award at the recent [Queensland Retail Property of the Year Awards](#). With nearly 100 years of combined experience, and a strong focus on regional and rural areas, cousins Jim and Robert started business together in 1969, before moving into shopping centres with their development being completed at Brassall in Ipswich in 1979.

SENATE INQUIRY INTO THE BILL EXTENDING UNFAIR CONTRACT TERM PROTECTIONS

The Shopping Centre Council has lodged a [submission](#) to, and has appeared before, the Senate Economics Legislation Committee, which is inquiring into the Federal Government's legislation extending unfair contract term protections to small business contracts (*Shop Talk* [25/6/15](#) & [20/8/15](#)). We have argued for drafting amendments to the Bill to ensure the exemption mechanisms deliver what the Minister for Small Business, Bruce Billson, has consistently promised: that this law will not lead to duplicate regulation of small business contracts and that it will not become a means of 'forum shopping'. We also drew attention to deficiencies in the Bill's definition of 'small business' which, unless corrected, will allow 'gaming' by large businesses. The Committee is due to report to the Senate on 14 September.

FINALISTS ANNOUNCED IN SHOPPING CENTRE COUNCIL 2015 MARKETING AWARDS

The finalists in the 2015 Shopping Centre Council of Australia Marketing Awards have now been decided and are available on the website [here](#). The entries of the finalists will now be judged by an independent panel to decide the winner and runner up in each category, as well as the Sabina Rust Memorial Prize for Campaign of the Year. These will be announced at the Gala Dinner in Sydney on Tuesday 27 October 2015. Tables or tickets for the Gala Dinner can be obtained [here](#).

MEDINA CICAK IS 2015 NATIONAL RETAIL ASSOCIATION YOUNG RETAILER OF THE YEAR

Medina Cicak, a young executive of KFC Australia (Yum! Restaurants International) was this week [announced](#) the National Retail Association's Young Retailer of the Year. Medina has won a place on the [Westfield 2016 World Retail Study Tour](#). The Shopping Centre Council is also a major sponsor of the NRA's Young Retailer of the Year Awards.

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