

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

FRIDAY 4 AUGUST 2017

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO CITIES: SUBMISSION PERIOD EXTENDED

The deadline for submissions to the federal Parliamentary inquiry into the Australian Government's role in the development of cities has, surprisingly, been extended by a month, to 31 August 2017 ([Shop Talk 16/6/17](#)). There is no clear reason for the extension given 80-odd groups managed to submit by the initial 31 July deadline, including the [Shopping Centre Council](#). It is our fundamental view that there is no new, express role for the Australian Government in the development of cities beyond the existing, broader 'role of government', and beyond the framework which has already been defined by the Federal Government via its *Smart Cities Plan* ([Shop Talk 5/5/16](#)). We remain of the view that nothing of particular substance will come from this inquiry, and certainly nothing that will significantly alter the direction of existing 'city planning' strategies and activities of the dedicated agencies, such as the Greater Sydney Commission. At the very least, we hope that the Committee acknowledges the significant effort and contributions shopping centre owners continue to make to local communities and in making great places.

NSW CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME PROGRESSES TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION

The NSW Government has [announced](#) the Scheme Coordinator and Network Operator under the newly named 'Return and Earn' 10-cent Container Deposit Scheme due to commence on 1 December 2017 ([Shop Talk 3/3/17](#)). The Scheme will comprise of more than 500 collection points across NSW and more than 800 reverse vending machines across the state. Shopping centres have been noted as potential collection point locations in Scheme literature. Now that the scheme and network operators have been announced, further detail on the roll-out of the Scheme should be available soon.

LAST CHANCE TO NOMINATE IN SCCA MARKETING AWARDS – ENTRIES CLOSE MONDAY 7 AUGUST!

The nomination period for the 2017 SCCA Marketing Awards closes on Monday 7 August. Don't miss out! Nominations should be submitted via the Awards [website](#).

ABS RETAIL TRADE: SALES GROWTH CONTINUES TO FIRM IN JUNE

The June 2017 release of monthly ABS Retail Trade data indicates that, in seasonally adjusted terms, the overall month-on-month (m-o-m) estimate of Retail Turnover increased by 0.3 per cent in the month of June 2017, following an increase of 0.6 per cent in May. On a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, Retail Turnover increased by 3.8 per cent for the second consecutive month. In the quarter to June 2017, Chain Volume Measures increased by 1.5 per cent, significantly up from 0.2 per cent in the prior corresponding period (pcp). A higher correlation between Retail Turnover and Chain Volume Measures indicates that increased volumes are driving sales growth as opposed to price increases. 'Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services' retailing was the strongest growing category for all but two jurisdictions (Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory), whilst 'Department stores' retailing was, once again, the weakest performing category in all jurisdictions except Tasmania.

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT RELEASES SNAP SHOT ON HEALTH OF SMALL BUSINESS

The Queensland Government has released a *State of Small Business report* covering the 2016-17 period. The report, the release of which was a commitment under the Government's *Advancing Small Business Strategy 2016-20* ([Shop Talk 30/6/16](#)), provides details on the contribution of small businesses to the Queensland economy (\$110 billion in 2015-16) and the growth in the number of small businesses (a 2% increase) over 12 months. An Office of Small Business [report](#) has also been released, which highlights activities such as mentoring, grants and workshops. In a recent [media statement](#), the Minister for Small Business, Leanne Enoch, noted that one of the achievements under the Government's small business strategy was the appointment of Queensland's Small Business Champion which has "restored our voice on the network of Small Business Commissioners to ensure Queensland is represented at the national level when policies, legislation and programs are being discussed".

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