

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

FRIDAY 6 JULY 2018

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA TRADING HOURS REFORM BILL TABLED IN PARLIAMENT

This week, the South Australian Treasurer, the Hon Rob Lucas MLC, tabled a [Bill](#) in Parliament to amend the SA trading hours law. The Bill follows an election commitment, first made in September 2016, of the now government to 'deregulate' trading hours ([ShopTalk 22/6/18](#)). In his second reading speech, Treasurer Lucas stated, "a commitment was made to deregulate South Australia's shop trading hours, reduce red tape and liberalise trading times by allowing non-exempt stores across the state to remain open for a broader range of hours every day of the week, including public holidays, whilst maintaining restrictions on Christmas Day, Good Friday and ANZAC Day morning." The independent supermarket sector has led a 'Stop Deregulation Adelaide' campaign since the election. The National Retail Association (NRA) issued a statement this week refuting the claims made by the campaign. NRA CEO Dominique Lamb has stated; "these same false, misleading and simplistic arguments – the same as those being put forward by Stop Deregulation Adelaide – have been quashed time and again because they simply do not stack up when the facts are presented." The Government argues that reforming trading hours will boost local businesses and provide consumers with greater choice ([ShopTalk 5/6/18](#)). The Opposition, and members of the cross-bench, have pledged to block the Bill (in relation to full deregulation). In light of this, the Bill has an interesting path ahead.

SUBMISSION LODGED TO THE REVIEW OF QLD ENERGY LEGISLATION

The Shopping Centre Council has lodged a [submission](#) to the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy on the [Review of Queensland Energy Legislation](#), which covers the *Electricity Act 1994*, *Gas Supply Act 2003* and *Energy and Water Ombudsman Act 2006*. The purpose of the review is to assess how well Queensland's state-based legislation serves current and future needs in the energy market.

LATEST ABS RETAIL TRADE FIGURES INDICATE A STABLE PERIOD OF TREND GROWTH

The [latest](#) release (May 2018) of the monthly ABS Retail Trade data indicates that the overall month-on-month (m-o-m) trend estimate increased by 0.3 per cent for the fourth consecutive month. In trend terms, Retail Turnover increased by 2.8 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), up from (a revised) 2.7 per cent in the prior corresponding period (pcp). In seasonally adjusted terms, the strongest growth across the six ABS retail categories was recorded for 'Department stores' retailing on a m-o-m basis (3.9 per cent), whilst 'Food' retailing recorded the strongest y-o-y growth (3.7 per cent). Retail Turnover increased by 0.4 per cent in the month of May 2018, down from (a revised) 0.5 per cent in April 2018. On a y-o-y basis, Retail Turnover increased by 2.5 per cent, down from (a revised) 2.7 per cent in the pcp. The strongest jurisdictions in seasonally adjusted terms were Victoria (up 4.3 per cent to \$80.8 billion) followed by Tasmania (up 3.9 per cent to \$5.0 billion) and South Australia (up 3.3 per cent to \$20.7 billion). Interestingly, South Australia has the lowest retail spend per capita (\$1,234/person) across all jurisdictions and is some 6.5 per cent lower than that of Australia (\$1,320/person). The latest figures from the *Westpac-Melbourne Institute Index of Consumer Confidence* [reports](#) consumer sentiment at 102.1 for June 2018, up from 101.8 in May 2018. This sustained period of consumer confidence is an improvement on 2017.

FEDERAL REPORT PROPOSES NATIONAL BAN ON SINGLE USE PLASTICS

A Senate inquiry [report](#), tabled last week, on the waste and recycling industry has recommended that Federal, state and territory governments phase out single-use plastics by 2023. This comes in the wake of most states and territories banning, or committing to ban, the use of plastic bags ([ShopTalk 22/6/18](#)). The report's proposed national ban goes beyond current state efforts, and would include takeaway containers, plastic-lined coffee cups and chip packets.

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