

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

22 FEBRUARY 2019

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CONGRATULATIONS GENEVIEVE ELLIOTT – WINNER OF THE 2018 FRANK LOWY FELLOWSHIP

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia is pleased to [announce](#) that Ms Genevieve Elliott, General Manager, Data Science and Insights, Vicinity Centres, has been awarded the Frank Lowy Fellowship for 2018, becoming the second Fellow of the prestigious industry initiative. The Fellowship was established in recognition of the contribution made by Sir Frank Lowy AC to the Australian shopping centre industry. The Fellowship is awarded to a talented person who has demonstrated distinction in their professional field and a commitment to shopping centre industry excellence. Ms Elliott has been awarded the Fellowship based on her demonstrated excellence in establishing Vicinity Centre's data and analytics capability. This capability has been built to help future proof Vicinity Centres amidst the evolving retail environment and allow Vicinity to develop a competitive advantage across its business. "In the spirit of Sir Frank, Genevieve has demonstrated drive, innovation and pragmatism as our industry strengthens our capabilities to better understand customer insights and reflect this in how we serve our customers", said Mr Peter Allen, SCCA Chairman and CEO of Scentre Group. The judging panel has for the first time decided to award two High Commendations, being: Mr Todd King, National Manager, Digital Strategy, Mirvac; and Ms Melissa Hanham, Research Manager, Consumer and Markets, Scentre Group. The 18 nominations from 12 organisations were representative of the broad range of skills and roles relevant to the shopping centre industry, including centre management, marketing, leasing, operations, research, development and investment management. Thank you to Ms Susan MacDonald, Head of Retail, Mirvac, Mr Steven Leigh, Managing Director, Global Real Estate, QIC, and Mr Grant Kelley, Chief Executive Officer, Vicinity Centres for joining the Fellowship judging panel. The Shopping Centre Council of Australia, with the support of Scentre Group, looks forward to continuing to grow awareness and recognition of the Fellowship in the coming years. Nominations for the 2019 Fellowship will open mid-2019. For more information, please visit the Frank Lowy Fellowship [website](#).

ACT INQUIRY INTO COMMERCIAL RATING FRAMEWORK

The ACT Legislative Assembly is undertaking an [inquiry](#) into the current commercial rating framework in the ACT. The Committee on Public Accounts (PAC), will investigate, among other things, the process for determining ratings factors, the amount paid by property owners and the impact on leasing costs, property values and business viability. In the [media release](#) announcing the inquiry on 14 December 2018, Committee Chair, ALP member Vicki Dunne MLA said, "Commercial rates has been an issue that has caused consternation in the community for some time, so it makes sense for the PAC to look into the issue." Issues arose following the 2012-13 Budget announcement of a revised taxation framework that abolished stamp duty and introduced a broad-based land tax. The Shopping Centre Council has made a [submission](#), in which we provided analysis that showed that while land value since 2012-13 has decreased, commercial rates have increased significantly. The Committee is set to report by the 4 April, prior to the ACT Budget expected in June.

LABOR'S 'ACCESS TO JUSTICE' AMENDMENTS PASS BOTH HOUSES

Just weeks after Labor released their Unfair Contract Terms Policy ([ShopTalk 8/2/19](#)), Labor's 'Access to Justice' amendments within the [Treasury Laws Amendment \(2018 Measures No. 5\) Bill 2018](#) have passed the Parliament last week. The policy was taken to the last election and tabled initially in the Parliament in the [Competition and Consumer Legislation Amendment \(Small Business Access to Justice\) Bill 2017](#). The amendments change both the [Competition and Consumer Act 2010](#), and [Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman Act 2015](#) and aim to make it easier for small businesses to proceed with legal action, principally via an ability for small businesses to request a no adverse costs order and/or a judge to waive an adverse cost order against the small business. Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman Kate Carnell AO has supported the measures, [calling](#) them "an important step towards levelling the playing field."

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