



# SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE  
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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[Archive](#)

## FAIR WORK OMBUDSMAN COMPLETES CLEANING INDUSTRY REPORT

The Fair Work Ombudsman released this week its [National Cleaning Services Campaign 2010-11 Report](#), the outcome of its investigation into compliance with new workplace laws ([Shop Talk 27/8/10](#) & [24/9/10](#)). The FWO audited over 350 companies and, while no individual companies have been identified, it found an overall 'non-compliance' level of 37.1% (117 employers). The 'common contraventions' found were underpayment of hourly rates of pay, inadequate record keeping practices, and minimum shift arrangements. The FWO recovered an average of around \$400 for 621 employees. While this non-compliance rate might seem high, it is perhaps not surprising given the new Fair Work Australia arrangements are in their infancy. A further 60 matters have been referred to the FWO's 'sham contracting' investigation, which focuses on contract for service arrangements and will be the subject of a further report.

## NEW INFRASTRUCTURE CHARGES REGIME IN QUEENSLAND NOW GAZETTED

The Queensland [Draft State planning regulatory provision \(adopted charges\)](#) and the associated [Draft infrastructure charges reform guidelines](#), which operate from 1 July 2011, have now been gazetted. These instruments, which implement the new regulated infrastructure charges regime, are now available for public consultation until 12 August. All other relevant information, including dates of information sessions, is available [here](#).

## LATEST EDITION OF INSIDE RETAILING MAGAZINE IS NOW AVAILABLE

The latest issue of *Inside Retailing Magazine* is now out, including a full report of the Westfield 2011 World Study Tour. Email: [subs@octomedia.com.au](mailto:subs@octomedia.com.au).

## ALDI'S PLANNING COMPLAINTS ARE NOT BACKED UP BY THE FACTS

Aldi's arrival in Australia has been a boon for supermarket competition and for consumers. Aldi was also instrumental in the elimination of restrictive covenants in supermarket leases. Unfortunately, however, Aldi continues to falsely complain (*Australian Financial Review 11 July*) that planning laws are hindering its expansion in Australia. Let's not forget that Aldi is opening, on average, 25 stores a year in Australia – a faster rate than Coles or Woolworths have historically achieved around Australia. And this rate could have been even higher if Aldi had sought (like Coles and Woolworths) to expand into SA and WA, something it has not done. Aldi's rate of store opening in (part of) Australia is actually faster than Aldi has achieved in any other country, except the USA (and it is only marginally higher there). That's not bad going for a new entrant in a mature grocery market. Aldi would be far better off joining the SCCA in pushing governments to expand their designated 'activity centres', and permitting the 'upzoning' of existing activity centres, rather than lobbying for special permission to locate in 'out-of-centre' locations.

## URBIS OVERSEAS RETAIL STUDY TOUR TO THE USA AND UK IN SEPTEMBER 2011

Urbis is arranging a retail study tour to the USA (Los Angeles and San Francisco) and to the UK from 10-23 September 2011. This will be led by Ian Shimmin and several other Urbis directors. Further information and booking details are [here](#).

## PROPERTY COUNCIL SHOPPING CENTRE MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING COURSE

The Property Council is running a two-day Shopping Centre Management and Marketing Introduction course in Sydney on 9-10 August. Click [here](#) for more details and to register for this course.