



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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DECISION RIS SAYS COST IS TOO HIGH TO IMPLEMENT A PUBLIC LEASE REGISTER

The Western Australian Department of Commerce has released a Decision Regulatory Impact Statement, [Improving access to lease information in the retail tenancy market in Western Australia](#), which recommends that the Government maintain the status quo and not move to introduce any additional mechanisms to 'improve' access to lease information for tenants. The Government's consultation included the release of a Position Paper in 2010 ([Shop Talk 15/10/10](#)) and a Consultation RIS in 2011 ([Shop Talk 1/09/11](#)). Mooted 'improvements' ranged from maintaining the status quo to increasing valuer access to lease information, establishing a public lease register or requiring the registration of leases on title. The Decision RIS notes that there was little support among stakeholders for the provision of additional information to valuers, highlights the prohibitive compliance costs of establishing a public lease register and outlines that the registration of leases on title is not appropriate. The Decision RIS notes that the Government has accepted the recommendation. This is a sensible (although protracted) outcome which will be helpful in batting away similar proposals in other jurisdictions when they arise.

REIV CHALLENGED TO PRODUCE EVIDENCE OF UNDERTAKING FROM GOVERNMENT

The REIV's CEO, Enzo Raimondo has publically alleged that we did a 'last minute deal' with the Victorian Government on the recently announced estate agent licensing exemptions ([Shop Talk 23/10/14](#) & [30/10/14](#)). Claims have also been made that the REIV had been given an 'undertaking' that the proposal would not be considered until after the election. There was no such 'deal' struck with the Government. We have also challenged Mr Raimondo to produce evidence of a formal 'undertaking' from someone with authority within Government.

ACCC CHAIR COMMENTS ON DEREGULATION OF TRADING HOURS

In a recent [speech](#), the Chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, Rod Sims, has acknowledged that "de-regulating trading hours" is an "important microeconomic reform" which, along with other proposals included in the Competition Policy Review Panel's recently released Draft Report, "have gained less attention than they deserve". After reflecting on the microeconomic reforms of the 1980s and 1990s, Mr Sims also goes on to say that the microeconomic reforms recommended by the Review Panel, presumably including the deregulation of trading hours, "will enhance productivity and improve the well-being of Australians". Hear, hear.

NSW PARLIAMENT RELEASES REPORT ON VALUER GENERAL

The Joint Standing Committee on the Office of the Valuer General has released the [Report on the Ninth General Meeting with the Valuer General](#). This report acknowledges the progress the Office of the Valuer General has made in response to recommendations made by the Committee following its inquiry into NSW's land valuation system ([Shop Talk 9/5/13](#) & [7/11/13](#)). These relate to the integrity, fairness and governance of the NSW land valuation system. The report also acknowledges the August 2014 departure of the former NSW Valuer General, Philip Western.

ICSC 2014 ASIA PACIFIC SHOPPING CENTER AWARDS ANNOUNCED AT RECON ASIA

Many Australian shopping centre campaigns were recognised in the ICSC's *2014 Asia Pacific Shopping Center Awards*, announced at the ICSC Asia RECon in Singapore this week. Winners included The GPT Group; CFS Retail Property Trust Group (now known as Novion Property Group); Stockland; Lend Lease; Ipoh and ISPT. All winners can be viewed [here](#).