



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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VIC GOVT RELEASES REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT ON NEW PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

The Victorian Government has released the [Regulatory Impact Statement \(RIS\)](#) in relation to the proposed gazettal under the *Public Holidays Act 1993* of two new public holidays. The proposed additional public holidays are on Easter Sunday and on the Friday before the Australian Football League Grand Final. This was a [commitment](#) by the then Labor Opposition prior to the 2014 election. The RIS, prepared by Pricewaterhouse Coopers Australia, estimates the economic cost of the new public holidays "to be between \$717 million and \$898 million annually". The RIS also finds that "overall, the estimated costs of the new public holidays outweighs the quantified benefits; however there is the potential for wider benefits to accrue to families and the broader community associated with coordinated leisure time." Submissions on the RIS close on 5 August. The SCCA will be lodging a submission.

SCCA SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY ON SALE OF DOGS AND CATS FROM PET SHOPS

A [Joint Select Committee](#) of the NSW Parliament is inquiring into companion animal breeding practices in NSW ([Shop Talk 21/5/15](#)). The Shopping Centre Council has lodged a [submission](#) in relation to one of the inquiry's terms of reference relating to the "implications of banning the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores". Our submission argues this would wipe out a significant number of small businesses in NSW and would lead to less regulatory oversight of the sale of companion animals. A ban would inevitably mean greater reliance on less regulated channels for the sale of dogs and cats, such as the internet, newspaper advertising and 'backyard breeders'. Strangely, despite the serious implications for small businesses, it does not appear from the list of submissions that the NSW Small Business Commissioner has lodged a submission.

SMALL BUSINESS OMBUDSMAN BILL REFERRED TO A SENATE COMMITTEE

The [Bill](#) to create an Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman has been referred for examination by the [Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee of the Senate](#). The Bill has already passed the House of Representatives ([Shop Talk 18/6/15](#) and [9/4/15](#)). The Committee is seeking submissions by 17 July and is to report to the Senate by 11 August. The proposed Ombudsman, once the Bill becomes law, will replace the present position of Australian Small Business Commissioner. The Shopping Centre Council lodged a [submission](#) on the Bill during the consultation period.

UK DEBATING RELAXING RESTRICTIONS ON SUNDAY TRADING FOR LARGE RETAILERS

There is presently a debate in the United Kingdom about a proposal in the recent Budget, delivered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, to relax Sunday trading restrictions for large retailers in England and Wales. (Scotland does not regulate trading hours but shop employees cannot be forced to work on Sundays). The current [law](#) allows small shops to trade at any time but, on Sundays, limits large retailers (i.e. those retailers with a floor space of more than 280 square metres) to a six hour trading period between 10am and 6pm. There are some exemptions from this law, such as for those at airports and railway stations. The proposed changes, which are based on improving consumer choice and delivering economic benefits, will enable local governments to make the decision. The proposals are opposed by the Association for Convenience Stores and the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers. The UK Parliament suspended the trading restrictions for large shops for eight Sundays in 2012 during the period of the London Olympic and Paralympic Games ([Shop Talk 24/5/12](#)).