

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

FRIDAY 20 APRIL 2018

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VICTORIAN COMMUNITY SAFETY STATEMENT: ROLE FOR PROTECTIVE SERVICES OFFICERS

The Victorian Government and Chief Commissioner of Police, Graham Ashton AM, have released their latest [Community Safety Statement](#) following the release the first statement in December 2016 ([Shop Talk 9/12/16](#)). One of the Statement's five key themes is 'Increasing Connection with the Community', which notes as a 'next step': 'expanding the presence of Protective Services Officers'. This is to include investigation of 'how the role of PSOs can be expanded to further complement the work of police', including their expansion into 'crowded places such as shopping centres'. ([New laws commenced recently](#) giving PSOs new and expanded powers). This investigation is welcome, and is similar to the Victorian Opposition's recent election policy announcement that they will fund police shop-fronts in 12 shopping centres across Melbourne and Geelong ([Shop Talk 9/3/18](#)).

NSW INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ISSUES REMINDER ABOUT ANZAC DAY TRADING RESTRICTIONS

This week, NSW Industrial Relations has issued a reminder about Anzac Day shop trading, including restrictions that apply prior to 1pm. Relevant information can be accessed [here](#).

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORTS ON IMPACT OF INTERNET COMPETITION

Last week, the Federal Parliament's Standing Committee on Industry, Innovation, Science and Resources released the [final report](#) on its inquiry on internet competition. The Committee specifically considered the impacts on the retail industry and small businesses. Committee Chair, Barnaby Joyce MP, has [noted](#) that "online shopping is only going to continue to grow and disrupt trade in traditional bricks and mortar shops around the country". The Committee has made six recommendations, including the establishment of a digital grants program for small businesses, and the oversight of digital retail platforms, including their collection, use and monetisation of data. In this regard, reference is made to the consideration of future competition law reform to safeguard against the use of data "in possibly anti-competitive ways".

TREASURER ANNOUNCES MR MICK KEOGH OAM WILL BE THE NEXT DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE ACCC

Federal Treasurer, Scott Morrison, yesterday [announced](#) that current ACCC Commissioner, Mr Mick Keogh OAM, will assume the role of Deputy Chair of the ACCC. Mr Keogh's term will commence at the end of May for a period of five years. In addition to his current responsibilities regarding the agriculture sector, Mr Keogh will also assume oversight of the ACCC's small business activities. Mr Keogh will step into the role following the departure in May of the current Deputy Chair, Dr Michael Schaper, after 10 years with the ACCC. In a related [media statement](#), the ACCC Chairman, Rod Sims noted that Dr Schaper "...has been an invaluable advocate for small businesses and franchises throughout his service...". The Shopping Centre Council sincerely thanks Dr Schaper for his proactive engagement, courtesy and professionalism in engaging with our sector, and wishes him the best in his future endeavours.

FURTHER SPECULATION GIFT CARD REGULATION MAY ROLL OUT NATIONALLY

Following the imposition of minimum three year expiry periods on most gift cards in NSW, and promises of similar reform in South Australia ([Shop Talk 29/3/18](#)), there has been renewed speculation that the Federal Government may step in to guide a national approach to the regulation of gift card expiry dates. It has been reported that the Federal Assistant Minister to the Treasurer, Michael Sukkar, has sought advice from Federal Treasury on a range of options, one being a ban on the application of expiry dates altogether. It is likely that advice has also been sought on the harmonisation across jurisdictions of the minimum three year expiry now operational in NSW. It seems likely that gift card regulation will be the subject of discussion at the next meeting of the Consumer Affairs Forum, made up of Australia's Ministers responsible for consumer affairs. Minister Sukkar chairs this forum. The architect of the NSW reforms, the Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation, Matt Kean, also sits on this group (and is likely to find appealing the prospect of NSW-originated reform being adopted across jurisdictions).

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