

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

THURSDAY 7 JULY 2016

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA TABLES NATIONAL ENERGY MARKET LEGISLATION IN PARLIAMENT

The Western Australian Treasurer and Minister for Energy, Dr Mike Nahan, has tabled three Bills in the WA Parliament which will bring parts of the WA energy network under the national electricity (and gas) law. This means that regulation of the Western Power electricity network will be transferred to the Australian Energy Regulator, which is part of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. We understand that, subject to Parliament's approval of these Bills, the new energy regulation regime will commence operation on 1 July 2018. We will be monitoring the legislation.

FORMER RETAILER ASSOCIATION CEO ELECTED TO THE FEDERAL PARLIAMENT

Trevor Evans, the immediate past CEO of the National Retail Association (NRA), has been elected to the Federal Parliament as the Member for Brisbane for the Liberal National Party. The Shopping Centre Council has warmly congratulated Trevor, noting that his strong understanding of issues that impact the retail sector, and the role our sector plays across the community, will be a good addition to the Federal Parliament. The NRA interim CEO, Ian Winterburn, has announced that the NRA Board hopes to make an announcement on a replacement CEO shortly. We look forward to our strong relationship with Trevor and the NRA continuing through this period of change.

QUEENSLAND RETAIL SHOP LEASES AMENDMENT ACT IS STILL TO BE PROCLAIMED

The Queensland [Retail Shop Leases Amendment Act 2016](#), which passed Parliament earlier this year and received assent in June, has still not been proclaimed ([Shop Talk 2/6/16](#)). It is understood, when it is proclaimed, the amendments will begin operation on 25 November 2016. The amendments to the Act arise out of the consultative review of the *Retail Shop Leases Act* which took place during 2011-2013. We will advise in *Shop Talk* when the Act is proclaimed.

REVIEW OF REGULATION IMPACTING VICTORIAN RETAIL SMALL BUSINESSES

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia has been invited to participate in an Industry Reference Group to assist the Victorian Government progress a review of regulation which impacts small business. While it is the Government's intention to focus on a number of small business sectors over the coming years, retail is the first sector to be reviewed. It is understood that, over the next 12 months, it is the Government's objective to develop a package of reforms that will assist to raise awareness and access to information and, as appropriate, reduce the regulatory burden and associated resource and cost demands on retail small businesses. We expect many themes of the review to be familiar and are already engaging constructively with our retail sector colleagues.

LATEST ABS RETAIL TRADE DATA INDICATES FURTHER SLOWING OF GROWTH

The latest release (May 2016) of the monthly ABS Retail Trade data indicates that the overall month-on-month trend estimate grew by 0.2 per cent, and by 3.3 per cent year-on-year, down from 3.4 per cent in the prior corresponding period. Despite slowing growth in Retail Turnover on a year-on-year basis, all ABS categories recorded strong growth. The strongest jurisdictions in seasonally adjusted terms were the ACT (up 5.2 per cent to \$5.3 billion) followed by Victoria (up 5.1 per cent to \$74.4 billion) and New South Wales (up 5.0 per cent to \$95.1 billion). Our full analysis can be found [here](#) on our website, along with [previous reports](#).

ICSC RECON ASIA PACIFIC TO BE HELD IN MANILA BEGINNING ON 11 OCTOBER 2016

The International Council of Shopping Centers is holding its *RECon Asia Pacific* in Manila, the Philippines, from 11-13 October 2016. Conference details are [here](#). Some very interesting mixed-use shopping, living and leisure centres are being developed in Manila which are worth inspecting. The [ICSC Asia Pacific Shopping Centre Awards](#) will also be presented at *RECon*.

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