

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

THURSDAY 14 JULY 2016

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ISSUES LIKELY TO EMERGE (AND RE-EMERGE) IN THE NEW FEDERAL PARLIAMENT

With counting still underway at time of writing, there are a number of anticipated outcomes of the 2 July election, and possible next steps, which should be of particular interest to the shopping centre and retail sectors. The rise in prominence of the Nick Xenophon Team (NXT) in the Senate, where the party is expected to hold three seats, may have flow on impacts to the scrutiny of retail leasing and related issues in the Parliament. Xenophon has strong 'small business' credentials and was responsible for the 2014/15 Senate Economics References Committee inquiry into the need for a national approach to retail leasing ([Shop Talk 3/3/16](#)). He was also responsible for the now lapsed Senate inquiry into the cause and consequences of the collapse of listed retailers in Australia (established in the wake of the Dick Smith collapse) which contemplated additional regulation for gift card schemes ([Shop Talk 14/4/16](#)). Xenophon publicly committed to seeking to have the latter inquiry reestablished if he was reelected to the Senate so this issue is likely to come back around in the short to medium term. In terms of other Parliamentary Committee business, a decision will have to be made as to whether to reconstitute the House of Representative's Infrastructure, Transport and Cities Standing Committee inquiry into so-called 'value-capture' infrastructure funding, which seemed to be tied to the Government's amorphous 'cities' agenda ([Shop Talk 4/2/16](#)). The Government will also need to return to the measure announced in its 3 May budget to close the \$1,000 Low Value Threshold (LVT) GST loophole, having reached in-principle agreement for this change with the states and territories. It is hoped that this priority will be progressed reasonably quickly (it is proposed to have a 1 July 2017 implementation date) and, hopefully, with the general agreement of the new crossbenchers. The Shopping Centre Council conducted detailed analysis of relevant party policies, including of the key minor parties, during the election campaign to ensure we have a strong basis for ongoing policy engagement and advocacy.

SUBMISSION LODGED WITH SMALL BUSINESS OMBUDSMAN ON PRIORITY AREAS

The Shopping Centre Council has lodged a submission with the Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman, Ms Kate Carnell AO, in response to a discussion paper seeking feedback from stakeholders to detail their priority issues. These submissions will assist the Ombudsman determine where they should be applying their attention and resources in their forward work plan. The Ombudsman is already conducting an inquiry into the impacts of the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal Payment Order, as requested by (then) Small Business Minister Kelly O'Dwyer.

DOMINIQUE LAMB ANNOUNCED AS NEW CEO OF NATIONAL RETAIL ASSOCIATION

Following the election of former National Retail Association (NRA) CEO, Trevor Evans, to the Federal Parliament as the Member for Brisbane, it was [announced](#) this week that Dominique Lamb has been appointed as the group's new CEO. The announcement was made by NRA Chairman, Mark Brodie. Ian Winterburn, NRA Deputy Chairman had been interim CEO. Dominique was previously running the NRA's law firm, NRA Legal, covering issues such as employment law and industrial relations. We congratulate Dominique on her appointment and look forward to working further with her and the team.

ACCC LAUNCHES GUIDE ON HOW COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CAN BENEFIT SMALL BUSINESS

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) have [launched](#) a new guide for small businesses on the potential benefits of collective bargaining. The guide notes that retailers can form a collective bargaining group. The guide covers matters such as the potential benefits for small business, matters to consider when forming a bargaining group and how to get ACCC approval. The Shopping Centre Council was consulted on a ACCC authorisation of an agreement reached by the Australian Newsagents Federation in 2014.

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