

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

THURSDAY 28 JULY 2016

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PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON COUNTER-TERRORISM AND MASS GATHERING PLACES

Late last week, the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, made some public comments about the need to “rethink that way we design and protect places where large numbers of Australians gather”. The Prime Minister’s comment came in the wake of the terrorist attack in Nice, France, and just a day before an active shooting (reportedly not a terrorism incident) by a lone gunman at Olympia Shopping Centre in Munich, Germany, killing nine people. Prime Minister Turnbull has reportedly tasked Australia’s Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, Greg Moriarty, to review lessons for Australia. Under the *National Guidelines for the Protection of Places of Mass Gathering* shopping centres are identified as a ‘place of mass gathering’ (along with sporting stadiums and transport hubs) and a potential terrorist target. This was reinforced in the *Improvised Explosive Device Guidelines for Places of Mass Gathering* released by the Australia-New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee in April ([Shop Talk 14/4/16](#)). The Shopping Centre Council works with relevant agencies on security issues.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION ANNOUNCES SHADOW MINISTRY

The Leader of the Opposition, Bill Shorten, announced the [Shadow Ministry](#) over the weekend. Katy Gallagher, the former Chief Minister of the ACT and now Senator, has been appointed as the Shadow Minister for Small Business and Financial Services, while Julie Owens remains the Shadow Assistant Minister for Small Business. Ms Gallagher has been reported as noting that lowering the small business tax rate and ensuring a modern and efficient regulatory environment are key priorities in her new role. The Opposition has kept the Small Business portfolio in Shadow Cabinet, contrasting the Government’s decision to shift it to the outer-Ministry ([Shop Talk 21/7/16](#)). Within the broader Treasury portfolio is the Shadow Minister for Competition and Productivity, Andrew Leigh, and the Shadow Minister for Consumer Affairs, Sam Dastyari. Chris Bowen remains as the Shadow Treasurer.

VICTORIAN RETAIL SMALL BUSINESS REGULATION REVIEW UNDERWAY

The Victorian Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade, Philip Dalidakis, this week released a 24-page [Issues Paper](#) to guide the review of regulation impacting small business retailers in Victoria ([Shop Talk 7/7/16](#)). The ‘Retail Review’ will target ‘small retailers’ problems with regulation’ and has an aim to ‘make it easier for small retailers to do business and employ staff’. The review will focus on regulations that are under the Government’s control, as opposed to other issues such as Commonwealth regulation. At the state level, the paper lists regulation in relation to liquor licensing, leasing, trading hours, land tax, the fire services levy, payroll tax registration and waste disposal. At the local level issues noted include planning and building permits, outdoor dining, parking, signage and food safety. The Paper also identifies a ‘vision’ for the small business retail sector which includes various ‘Key Result Areas’ including: an increase in the number of small retail businesses, increase in profitability, increase in employment, a fall in the number of disputes, an increase in productivity and improved business confidence. Following a consultation process over the coming months, it is noted that identified reforms will be published in an Action Statement in mid-2017, with subsequent state and local government regulatory reforms to be implemented. The Shopping Centre Council will be engaging with this review and lodging a formal submission.

ACCC RELEASES SMALL BUSINESS IN FOCUS REPORT; REFLECTS ON UNFAIR CONTRACTS

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) this week released issue 12 of its six-monthly [Small Business in Focus](#) report. The report notes a number of issues including complaints and inquiries, enforcement action and other activities. The report itself urges caution about the interpretation of the data, and notes that a complaint is not always a reference to an alleged contravention of the *Competition and Consumer Act* ([Shop Talk 23/7/15](#)).

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