

# SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2016

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## WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TRADING HOURS REFORMS SPLIT INTO TWO

Last week, the WA Government decided to split a bill to amend the Retail Trading Hours Act into two. The Retail Trading Amendment Bill 2015 will be progressed - with the Opposition's support - to address anomalies regarding filling stations, tourist trading hour precincts and short-term stalls. The second bill, the Retail Trading Amendment Bill (No.2) 2015 now contains the broader proposed reforms to trading hours in Western Australia, specifically proposals to introduce extended weekday and Saturday trading hours. With the State election being held in March 2017, this will likely see the Bill lapse and the issue shelved for some time, pending the election outcome. The Government met resistance from Labor on the proposed extended trading hours, led by Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations Minister, Kate Doust MLC, and also the National Party, who expressed concerns about the potential impact small supermarkets. The proposed hours essentially mirrored the hours granted each year for the Christmas trading period; being a weekday opening of 7am, and a Saturday opening of 8am, and closing of 6pm. Earlier this year, Labor, supported by the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association (i.e. the Shop Assistants Union), lodged a petition with the Parliament's Public Affairs Committee and sought to have an inquiry into trading hour reforms, including previous reforms (such as Sunday trading, introduced in August 2012), before any further reforms are implemented. This was rejected by the Government.

## PRELIMINARY VIEWS OFFERED ON QUEENSLAND TRADING HOURS REVIEW

The Shopping Centre Council has written to the Queensland Minister for Industrial Relations, Grace Grace, offering preliminary views on the review of the state's retail trading hours regime ([Shop Talk 1/9/16](#)). This drew reference to the relevance of trading hours to shopping centres and our ongoing participation in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission on trading hour issues including an application to deliver consistent, trading hours for South-East Queensland ([Shop Talk 24/9/15](#)).

## SPECULATION RISES ON THE ARRIVAL OF GERMAN DISCOUNT SUPERMARKET, LIDL

There has been recent media speculation about the possible expansion into Australia of the German global discount supermarket Lidl, which operates more than 10,000 stores across around 25 countries. Lidl is currently expanding into the United States, with average proposed stores of around 3,000m<sup>2</sup>. According to one report, the company has "applied for dozens of trademarks" this year, held talks with the Victorian Government and is believed to have also met with suppliers. However, reports also note that, as recently as June this year, Lidl had "no current plans" to launch in Australia.

## AFR RETAIL SUMMIT STOKES DEBATE ON CRITICAL SECTOR ISSUES

The Australian Financial Review's Retail Summit, held in Melbourne this week, covered a range of critical issues for our sector, including updates from senior public officials. Federal Small Business Minister, Michael McCormack MP, opened the Summit and outlined the Government's support for small business as well as proposed changes to competition law, stemming from the Harper Competition Review. Australian Competition and Consumer Commission Chair, Rod Sims, outlined issues with online retail acquisitions, and Fair Work Commission President, Iain Ross, provided an overview on the current case before the Commission on Sunday penalty rates. Reserve Bank Assistant Governor (Financial System), Dr Malcolm Edey, discussed the New Payments Platform, to be in place by late 2017, to enable an improved digital payments network for 'everyday payments'.

## GET IN QUICKLY, ONLY A FEW TABLES LEFT AT MARKETING AWARDS GALA DINNER

There are a small number of tables left for purchase at the Shopping Centre Council of Australia Marketing Awards Gala Dinner on the 27 October 2016 at the Westin Ballroom in Sydney. Finalists across the 17 award categories are listed [here](#) and winners will be announced at the Gala Dinner. Purchase your tickets [here](#).

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