

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER 2016

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NT TO CREATE TWO NEW 'EVE' PUBLIC HOLIDAYS – REMINISCENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA IN 2012

Following initial media reports, the Northern Territory Government this week tabled the [Public Holidays Amendment Bill 2016](#) to introduce two new public holidays, from 7pm to midnight on the 'eves' of Christmas and New Year, effective this year. There is no impact in terms of allowable trading hours. This is reminiscent of a similar announcement in 2012 in South Australia, which was the result of an agreement struck between Business SA and the Shop Assistant's Union. The move in SA also saw the creation of public holiday trading in the Adelaide CBD, at the expense of customers of retailers and shopping centres in suburban areas who remain unable to trade (*Shop Talk* [8/3/12](#), [1/3/12](#), [16/2/12](#)). This decision did not form part of the Government's policy platform ahead of the recent election, and has not been subject to extensive consultation. The NT decision will increase some shopping centre operating costs (e.g. cleaning, security) and costs for certain retailers such as supermarkets, hospitality and entertainment tenants, and sets a poor precedent.

VIC GOVERNMENT TABLES BILL TO REGULATE SUPPLY AND SALES OF CATS AND DOGS

The Victorian Government has recently tabled the [Domestic Animals Amendment \(Puppy Farms and Pet Shops\) Bill 2016](#) (*Shop Talk*, [18/8/16](#)). The Bill seeks to make it an offence to supply cats and dogs to a pet shop, and for a pet shop to sell cats and dogs, unless the animals are from an "approved source"; which is specified as a registered animal shelter, pound or foster carer. One shopping centre, and a pet store within the centre, was recently the subject of misleading commentary through social media, which noted that, when passed, the legislation will mean that the pet shop "will have no choice but to stop selling animals". This is misleading. The legislation does ban the sale of cats and dogs (or "animals") in pet shops. Shopping centre owners and managers, and their retailers, should be aware of the legislation, including if they are subject to similar misleading commentary.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2016 SCCA MARKETING AWARDS WINNERS

Congratulations to all winners at this week's annual [SCCA Marketing Awards](#). Special congratulations go to the winner of the 2016 *Sabina Rust Memorial Prize for Campaign of the Year*, 'Miss Kyree Loves Karrinyup-A Style Series', Karrinyup Shopping Centre, owned by UniSuper and managed by AMP Capital. The winner receives \$25,000 from the Shopping Centre Council of Australia as a contribution towards professional development. The runner up, 'NAIDOC Week – Sing with Us', by Scentre Group, will receive \$5,000. The Shopping Centre Council will also be donating \$2,500 each to Bass High School, Omanu Surf Life Saving Club, WAYSS and NAIDOC on behalf of the 'Community' category winners.

INFRASTRUCTURE VICTORIA POLICY PAPER ON VALUE CAPTURE FUNDING

Infrastructure Victoria recently released a [Policy Paper](#) on the opportunities for the application of so-called 'value capture' to fund infrastructure. This Policy Paper 'dovetails' with the draft [30 Year Infrastructure Strategy](#) also released recently. There are some concerning concepts floated in this paper, including the premise of 'Major beneficiary contributions' which are detailed as "negotiated contributions from parties who will be significant beneficiaries from a project (or modifications to a project)". According to the paper, these types of contributions could be used "where large asset/landowners such as airport operators, shopping centres...will benefit from the project". The release of this paper is the next in a stream of potentially damaging ideas which seems to be being stoked by interest in so-called 'innovative' approaches to infrastructure funding and the broader 'cities' agenda. Unfortunately, this agenda seems to have been given air by certain groups who have been keen to push "innovative" solutions to the funding of infrastructure. We, and our retailers, are now facing the prospect of nothing more than a new property tax, dressed up under the guise of "innovation" and simplistic notions of being "major beneficiaries".

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