

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2016

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GREATER SYDNEY COMMISSION DRAFT DISTRICT PLANS RELEASED FOR CONSULTATION

This week the Greater Sydney Commission (GSC) released six draft [District Plans](#) – Central, North, West Central, West, South West and South - for comment. The draft Plans revisit the classification of centres across Greater Sydney. There are three classifications - 'Strategic', 'District' and 'Local'. It is generally noted that the key distinction between 'Strategic' and 'District' centres is the presence and scale of 'health and education facilities, transport gateway infrastructure and knowledge intensive jobs'. It is also noted that 'District' centres are characterised by the scale of retail activity, which is 'generally over 50,000 square meters of floor space'. Importantly, the draft Plans note that the differentiation between 'Strategic' and 'District' centres 'does not intend to impact on the ability for either (centres) to attract retail or commercial activity...'. Throughout the draft Plans there is also an acknowledgment that there is increasing 'pressure' to rezone industrial land (termed 'employment and urban services land' in the draft Plans) for retail purposes. Statements in the various draft Plans, including 'such rezonings have the potential to have longer term growth and productivity implications for Greater Sydney', support the GSC's generally expressed position that a 'precautionary approach' should be taken to the conversion of industrial lands, or the adding of additional permitted uses. The draft Plans flag the need for additional work to be undertaken to further explore this approach. The GSC also reinforces the strength of centres across Greater Sydney, including by noting that '...planning should reinforce Greater Sydney's strong focus on centres...' with specific references to, for example, accommodating future demand for retail floorspace. Reference is also made to the need to consider the 'net social, economic and environmental benefits of new (floorspace) supply within different locations' when a council is preparing local retail and commercial strategies. The Shopping Centre Council will continue to review the draft Plans and make appropriate representations in the new year.

REMINDER ABOUT RULES FOR BOXING DAY TRADING FOR 2016

NSW Industrial Relations has issued a [fact sheet](#) to remind stakeholders, including landlords, about their obligations with regard to widespread trading on Boxing Day 2016. The fact sheet notes that "a landlord or lessee cannot compel a shopkeeper to open on Boxing Day" and reiterates that contravention of this requirement could attract a penalty of up to \$22,000. 2016 is the second year of widespread Boxing Day trade following the passage of the *Retail Trading Amendment Act 2015* in November 2015. This legislation came with a sunset clause to the effect of requiring Parliament to again consent to widespread Boxing Day trading from 2017 onwards. The legislation also requires a formal review of Boxing Day trading to be undertaken. It is understood this review will assess industry compliance and whether the intent of the enabling legislation was satisfied. The outcome of this review is to be tabled in the Parliament before September 2017. The Shopping Centre Council will be engaging in this review and strongly recommending that widespread Boxing Day trading be allowed from 2017 onwards.

DONATIONS ROLLING OUT IN RECOGNITION OF MARKETING AWARD 'COMMUNITY' WINNERS

The Shopping Centre Council is rolling out \$10,000 in donations to the community organisations which were nominated by the winners of the 'Community' campaign categories at the 2016 [Marketing Awards](#). Charter Hall has nominated Bass High School as a worthy recipient in recognition of Bass Hill Shopping Centre's win in the 'Mini-Guns' category; AMP Capital has nominated Omanu Surf Life Saving Club (New Zealand) for Bayfair Shopping Centre's win in the 'Little Guns' category; Vicinity Centres has nominated WAYSS, which supports victims of family violence, in recognition of Bayside Shopping Centre's win in the 'Big-Guns' category; and Scentre Group have nominated a range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and initiatives to receive contributions in recognition of their 'Multi-Centre' category win and as the runner-up for the Sabina Rust Memorial Prize for Campaign of the Year.

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