

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER 2016

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PRIME MINISTER COMMITS TO NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR PLACES OF MASS GATHERING

Last week, the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, [advised](#) the Parliament that a review of the lessons from recent international terror attacks by the Commonwealth's Counter-Terrorism Coordinator found that Australia "...has robust legislative, policy, and operational arrangements in place to protect us..." from terror threats. An area identified in the review for further work was how best to protect public places, specifically places of mass gathering. The Prime Minister advised that there is now a commitment and a priority "to develop a national strategy for places of mass gathering, including a nationally consistent approach to risk assessment for such places". Places of mass gathering are characterised as having a large concentration of people on a predictable basis. Shopping centres are specifically recognised as places of mass gathering. There are a range of materials available to assist owners and managers of places of mass gathering understand the context of the current threat. They also provide advice about prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Guidelines about active shooters and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) are available on the [Australian National Security](#) website. The [National Terrorism Threat Level](#) has also been reviewed by the Director-General of Security and this remains at 'Probable'. The Shopping Centre Council continues to liaise with relevant security and law enforcement agencies at the state and federal levels.

CHRISTMAS DAY 2016 A GAZETTED PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN VICTORIA

The Victorian Minister for Small Business, Philip Dalidakis, has [determined](#) that Christmas Day, Sunday 25 December, will be a public holiday in addition to the substitute holiday on Tuesday 27 December. Trading restrictions will apply to Christmas Day but will not apply on the substitute Tuesday. This change brings Victoria into line with other states which are observing public holidays on 25, 26 and 27 December in 2016.

ABS RETAIL TRADE INCREASES BY 3.3 PER CENT YEAR-ON-YEAR IN TREND TERMS

The latest [release](#) (October 2016) of the monthly ABS Retail Trade data indicates that the overall month-on-month (m-o-m) trend estimate grew by 0.4 per cent. In trend terms, retail turnover increased by 3.3 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), up from a revised 3.2 per cent in the prior corresponding period (pcp). In seasonally adjusted terms, Retail Turnover grew by 0.5 per cent in the month of October 2016 (down from 0.6 per cent from the pcp) and by 3.5 per cent on a y-o-y basis (equal to the pcp). The strongest growth was recorded for 'Other' retailing on a m-o-m basis (0.8 per cent) while 'Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services' retailing recorded the strongest growth on a y-o-y basis (7.3 per cent).

VALUE CAPTURE DISCUSSION PAPER PERPETUATES CONCERN

The Shopping Centre Council has a long held scepticism of so-called value-capture infrastructure funding ([Shop Talk 3/12/15](#), [18/2/16](#) & [5/5/16](#)), and this has only been reinforced by the recent release of the Federal Government's [discussion paper](#) on the subject. A general premise behind value-capture continues to be that the delivery of a piece of transport infrastructure will see surrounding land and property owners 'benefit' from an increase in value. There also seems to be a generally accepted view that those individuals or businesses which 'benefit' most should contribute to the cost of infrastructure. Although it is comforting that the Government is keen to ensure that "value capture is not an additional tax" and to "demonstrate the nexus between payments made to support a new piece of infrastructure and the benefits that infrastructure provides", there still seems to be disconnect with current valuation, planning and taxation fundamentals. We remain of the view that there is no credible method to properly isolate and quantify the contribution made by an infrastructure project, let alone a proposed future infrastructure project, to an asset's land value. Submission to the Discussion Paper are due in early February 2017.

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