

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

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NSW RETAIL LEASES AMENDMENT (REVIEW) BILL PASSES LOWER HOUSE

The [Retail Leases Amendment \(Review\) Bill 2016](#) has passed the Lower House of the NSW Parliament. Having been tabled in November 2016 ([Shop Talk 11/11/16](#)), the Bill was one of the Government's legislative priorities for 2017. The Bill passed the Lower House unamended and with the support of the Opposition and Greens. This is a positive outcome as it reduces the risk of amendments being proposed in the Upper House. During the debate, the Shadow Minister for Small Business, Jenny Aitchison MP, raised a number of issues about possible unintended consequences of aspects of the Bill, and noted that the Opposition intended to "continue to monitor the operation of this legislation" and "hold the Government to account to ensure that detrimental unintended consequences are not imposed on those who are unable to address them". The Minister for Small Business, Deputy Premier John Barilaro MP, addressed some of these issues in reply. Throughout the Parliamentary debate there was also a number of references to the voluntary code of practice which has been developed and agreed between the Shopping Centre Council, Australian Retailer Association, National Retail Association, the Franchise Council of Australia and the Pharmacy Guild. The Bill is now to be debated in the Upper House. Considering the quick pace of debate and the support of the Opposition, it is expected the Bill will move through Parliament within a matter of weeks.

SAVE THE DATE: SCCA MARKETING AWARDS 2017 GALA DINNER CONFIRMED

The Shopping Centre Council is pleased to announce that this year's SCCA Marketing Awards Gala Dinner will be held on Thursday 19 October 2017 from 6:30pm at Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf, Sydney. Nominations will open on 1 July and close on 7 August 2017. More information including the 2017 Call for Entries Booklet will be released shortly on the [Awards website](#).

HALF-BAKED TRADING HOURS REFORM ANNOUNCED BY QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT

The Queensland Government this week announced its [response](#) to the [independent review](#) of the state's cumbersome and dated trading hours regime ([Shop Talk 21/10/16](#)). The Shopping Centre Council lodged a submission on the review. Amidst some positive reform commitments, in a major lost opportunity, the Government rejected the independent recommendation for widespread Sunday trading, which particularly impacts key regional and rural areas. The Government has recommended 'standard' allowable hours (9am-6pm) for regional areas on Sundays and public holidays, however separate applications will still need to be lodged with the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) to 'opt-in' to these provisions, for those areas unable to trade. Positive reforms including making Easter Sunday a trading day and standardising extended (e.g. midnight) trading arrangements during the pre-Christmas period. The reforms require legislation amendments. We are in discussion with the Government as part of the preparation of the legislation, particularly to ensure there are no unintended consequences in the new regime, and to enable a smooth passage through the Parliament.

TERRORISM INSURANCE ACT EXTENDED TO INCLUDE CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ATTACKS

The [Treasury Laws Amendment \(2016 Measures No. 1\) Bill 2016](#) has been tabled in Federal Parliament. One aspect of the Bill amends the *Terrorism Insurance Act 2003* (which establishes the terrorism reinsurance scheme and Australian Reinsurance Pool Corporation to provide an avenue for insurance cover for declared terrorism incidents) to clarify that losses as a result of chemical or biological terrorist attacks are covered by the scheme. This proposed change is consistent with the 2015 triennial review of the Act ([Shop Talk 17/12/15](#)), which the Shopping Centre Council participated in, which recommended that the application of the Act be clarified to "remove doubt" as to whether chemical and biological attacks would be covered by the scheme.

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