

# SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

FRIDAY 7 APRIL 2017

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## FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY BILL PASSES NSW PARLIAMENT

The [Fire and Emergency Services Levy Bill 2017](#), which establishes the new unimproved land value-based Fire and Emergency Services Levy (FESL) ([Shop Talk 10/3/17](#)), has passed through the NSW Parliament. This means that, on 1 July 2017, the new FESL will replace the existing insurance-based Emergency Services Levy. The ad valorem rates which will be applicable to each property type have not yet been released. In his comments closing the debate on the Bill, the NSW Treasurer, Dominic Perrottet, reiterated that "the order fixing the FESL rates will be published...before 30 April 2017" and that the rates "will maintain the existing shares of revenue contributed under the insurance-based emergency services levy". The ad valorem payment will come in addition to a fixed charge per property of \$200 for commercial, which "will be adjusted each year by April 30 in line with the consumer price index". With the abolition of the insurance-based levy, the Insurance Monitor has [reportedly](#) estimated that "the removal of the ESL will mean that the cost of commercial property insurance should fall by up to 30%", noting this as percentage off total gross payment. Information on the new levy is available at the dedicated FESL [website](#).

## SUBMISSION LODGED TO NSW BOXING DAY REVIEW: CUSTOMER DEMAND STRONG

The Shopping Centre Council has lodged a submission in response to the review of the legislative arrangements for widespread Boxing Day trade which were in effect in 2015 and 2016 ([Shop Talk 17/3/17](#)). Our submission focusses on the strength of customer demand on Boxing Day in terms of customer foot traffic. It details that, in both years, Boxing Day was the fourth most popular trading day across the Christmas period (1-Dec to 7-Jan) and the most popular trading day post-Christmas. We have recommended that the arrangements which facilitated widespread trading in 2015 and 2016 be retained in the *Retail Trading Act 2008* to allow for permanent widespread Boxing Day trade from 2017 onwards without the need for further review. The review report is required to be tabled in the Parliament by 1 September 2017.

## ABS RETAIL TRADE DATA INDICATES FURTHER SLOWING GROWTH

The latest release ([February 2017](#)) of the monthly Retail Trade data from the ABS indicates that the overall month-on-month (m-o-m) trend estimate grew by 0.1 per cent, down from 0.2 per cent in the prior corresponding period (pcp). In trend terms, retail turnover increased by 2.9 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), down from (a downwardly revised) 3.0 per cent in the pcp. However, seasonally adjusted Retail Turnover decreased by 0.1 per cent in the month of February 2017 (significantly down from 0.4 per cent in the pcp) and increased by 2.7 per cent on a y-o-y basis (down from 3.1 per cent in the pcp). The strongest growth in seasonally adjusted terms was recorded for 'Department stores' retailing on a m-o-m basis (0.8 per cent), whilst the strongest category on a y-o-y basis was 'Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services' retailing (5.9 per cent). The latest release of the Westpac Melbourne Institute Consumer Sentiment Index indicates that consumer sentiment increased to 99.7 in March 2017, up slightly from 99.6 in February 2017.

## SCCA MARKETING AWARDS 2017 CALL FOR ENTRIES BOOKLET RELEASED

Nominations for the [SCCA Marketing Awards](#) will open on 1 July 2017 and close on Monday 7 August 2017. Please see the 2017 [Call for Entries Booklet](#) for more details, including the judging criteria and entry guidelines. The winner of the Sabina Rust Memorial Prize for Campaign of the Year will receive \$15,000 from the Shopping Centre Council as a contribution towards professional development in the marketing area. The Runner Up will receive \$5,000 from the Shopping Centre Council as a contribution towards professional development in the marketing area. Winners in each of the four Community categories will also be awarded with a cash prize of \$5,000 from the Shopping Centre Council to donate to their chosen community charity or group. This year's SCCA Marketing Awards Gala Dinner will be held on Wednesday 25 October 2017 from 6:00pm at Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf, Sydney.

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