

# SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

FRIDAY 26 MAY 2017

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## MEDIA REPORTS INDICATE DISQUIET ABOUT NSW FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY

This week, it was reported in the media that the NSW Government is under pressure to reconsider the recently gazetted Fire and Emergency Services Levy rates ([Shop Talk 28/4/17](#)). The Shopping Centre Council has made representations on this issue to the Government given the significant average four-fold increase to our members under the new property-based levy. These additional costs will be incurred despite owners remaining insured and maintaining fire suppression systems in their centres. It is hoped the Government takes corrective action. It is a sad fact that, in recent years, Government imposed statutory charges and other costs, such as energy prices – costs that can't be controlled by shopping centre owners – are the runaway costs for shopping centre owners and their tenants.

## QUEENSLAND TRADING HOURS REFORM DEBATED IN PARLIAMENT

As reported last week, debate on the *Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill* is heating up in Queensland ([Shop Talk 19/5/17](#)). Debate resumed in the Parliament this week, with the Liberal National Party declaring that they would not support the Bill. In his contribution to the debate, the Shadow Minister for Employment, Industrial Relations, Skills and Training, Jarrod Bleijie, noted that "the reason we are opposing this legislation is not because the Liberal National Party does not believe there is some modernisation or reform necessary in trading hours, because we do. Rather, we do not have confidence in the process that was undertaken in order to get to where we are with this review...". In this regard, the LNP has critiqued what they consider to be a lack of independence and consultation in the review process, and noted the appointment of a former Labor member, Mr John Mickel, to lead the review. Mr Bleijie also told the Parliament that the proposed amendments are "another kick in the guts for our struggling small business sector in this state" and drew on the representations of the independent supermarket sector. The debate of the Bill has been adjourned and is expected to resume in mid-June.

## MINOR AMENDMENTS TO QLD RETAIL SHOP LEASES ACT PASS PARLIAMENT

In an active few days for retail issues in the Queensland Parliament, the [Court and Civil Legislation Amendment Bill](#) passed the Parliament this week ([Shop Talk 19/5/17](#)). Although the Bill proposed amendments to around 30 Acts within the justice portfolio, the proposed housekeeping amendments to the *Retail Shop Leases Act* received a disproportionate degree of attention during the Parliamentary debate. Having formed the view that reinstating an existing lessor safeguard "weakens the position of tenants", the Liberal National Party declared its opposition to a proposed amendment to the *Retail Shop Leases Act* – an amendment which was necessary to correct a drafting error with regard to lessor disclosure obligations which occurred when the *Retail Shop Leases Amendment Bill* passed the Parliament in early 2016 – apparently on the basis of representations from the Queensland Law Society. In response to this claim, the Attorney General, Yvette, D'Ath, made clear that the amendment is "simply seeking to reinsert a provision that was omitted from the 2016 bill in error. It is supported by all of the lessee and lessor representatives". The Shopping Centre Council urged the Government to amend this oversight and sought corrective action to address the error, not reverse or change any policy of the Government.

## SCCA MARKETING AWARDS – EXPERIENCED JUDGING PANEL SECURED

The judging panel for the 2017 Shopping Centre Council of Australia Marketing Awards will be Emeritus Professor Roger Layton, University of New South Wales, Brand Communications Manager, Natasha Ritz from Lush Cosmetics and Board Director and Executive Coach, Robyn Stubbs. We'd like to thank all three for agreeing to assist. Nominations will open on 1 July 2017 and close on Monday 7 August. Please see the [Call for Entries Booklet](#) for more details, including the judging criteria and entry guidelines. More information is also available on the Awards [website](#). This year's Awards Gala Dinner will be held on Wednesday 25 October from 6pm at Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf, Sydney.

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