

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

TUESDAY 20 MARCH 2018

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CONGRATULATIONS SIDONE THOMAS – WINNER OF THE INAUGURAL FRANK LOWY FELLOWSHIP

Congratulations to Sidone Thomas, Head of Digital and Marketing – Retail, The GPT Group, who has been awarded the 2017 *Frank Lowy Fellowship*. The Fellowship celebrates the contribution made by Sir Frank Lowy AC to the Australian shopping centre industry ([Shop Talk 12/5/16](#)). Sidone will use the Fellowship to attend the 2018 World Retail Congress in Madrid. The Fellowship was awarded following the review of 27 high-quality nominations received from across the industry. The nominees were representative of the broad range of skills and roles relevant to the industry, including centre management, marketing, facilities management, leasing, operations and research. The judging panel was comprised of Peter Allen, CEO, Scentre Group, and SCCA Chairman; Susan MacDonald, Head of Retail, Mirvac, and SCCA Co-Deputy Chair and; Steven Leigh, Managing Director, Global Real Estate, QIC, and SCCA Director. The Fellowship serves as a great affirmation of the strength and diversity of talent in Australia's shopping centre industry. The Shopping Centre Council, with the support of Scentre Group, looks forward to growing awareness and recognition of the Fellowship in 2018. Nominations for the 2018 Fellowship will open mid-year. For more information and updates, visit the [Fellowship website](#).

POSSIBLE FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO THE FRANCHISE SECTOR

Based on recent media reports, it seems likely there may be a Federal Parliamentary inquiry into Australia's franchise sector. Reports suggest that Nationals Senator, John Williams, has been working on a proposed inquiry, which will be put to the joint senate party room for endorsement this week. It has also been reported that Senator Williams has been working with Small Business Minister, Craig Laundy, on the proposed terms of reference, and that an inquiry would likely report by September this year. It is likely that such an inquiry would investigate the adequacy of the Franchising Code of Conduct (under the *Competition and Consumer Act*), and related enforcement of the Code, including by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).

LATEST EDITION OF 'BIG GUNS' FROM SHOPPING CENTRE NEWS IS NOW AVAILABLE

The latest edition of the Shopping Centre News 'Big Guns' edition is now available. It includes the results from the latest (2017) annual survey of the performance of the largest Australian shopping centres by: (1) moving annual turnover (MAT); (2) centre sales productivity (MAT/sqm); and (3) specialty-store sales productivity (specialty MAT/sqm). This year's winners across each category were; Chadstone Shopping Centre (highest MAT; \$1.94 billion), Broadway Sydney (MAT/sqm; \$14,545) and Westfield Sydney (specialty MAT/sqm; \$22,194). This year also saw the induction of Highpoint Shopping Centre into the '\$1 billion club' (that is, a centre achieving more than \$1 billion in MAT), only the fifth centre to do so. It is also worth noting that in the last year, 'same centre' foot traffic is up 1.1 per cent whilst MAT is up 3.2 per cent.

SA ELECTION: LIBERALS WIN GOVERNMENT AFTER 16-YEARS OF LABOR

The Liberal Party has won the South Australian state election held on Saturday 17 March, following 16-years (four-terms) of Labor Governments, following the Rob Kerin-led Government being defeated by Labor in February 2002 (led by then Opposition Leader, Mike Rann). The composition of the Legislative Council remains unclear, although predictions suggest that the Government may not have a majority in the upper house. The new Premier, Steve Marshall, has been sworn in, along with Deputy Premier Vickie Chapman, and Treasurer Rob Lucas, with the rest of the Cabinet and Ministry to be sworn in later this week. An area of interest for our industry will be the potential re-tableting of the *Retail and Commercial Leases Amendment Bill*, which lapsed when Parliament was pro-rogued for the election. A further area of interest is the new Government's commitment to liberalise shop trading hours, including enabling trading on most declared public holidays (with the exception of Christmas Day, Good Friday and Anzac Day morning). This will require amendments to the *Shop Trading Hours Act* and passage through the Parliament.

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