

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

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GREATER SYDNEY COMMISSION RELEASES FINAL STRATEGIC PLANS

The NSW Government has released the Greater Sydney Commission's (GSC) [final Greater Sydney Region Plan](#) and the five related *District Plans* ([Shop Talk 25/1/18](#)). In a related [media release](#), the Minister for Planning, Anthony Roberts, said that "the Three Cities vision, which is now Government policy, addressed the desire of Sydneysiders to live closer to where they work and have more convenient access to education, health and great liveable places". Of particular interest in the media release is the Minister's acknowledgement that "urban services lands, which provide local jobs, services and industrial capabilities, will be better protected" under the plans. The Minister's public commentary sends a possible insight to our sector about the Government's intentions with regard to the ongoing development of a state-wide retail planning policy. The development of this policy, which is acknowledged in the GSC's final plans, comes following the release in late 2017 of the report of the Retail Expert Advisory Committee (REAC). Among other things, the REAC recommended the development of a state-wide retail planning policy ([Shop Talk 10/11/17](#)). The development of this policy serves as an opportunity for some in the retail sector to continue to agitate for increased access to industrial zoned land for development. It is hoped that the GSC's emphasis on the appropriate protection and management of urban services lands, among other things, informs the ongoing retail planning policy work. The GSC should be congratulated on the finalisation of these plans which have been informed by extensive consultation and positive stakeholder engagement over several years, including with the Shopping Centre Council. Apart from the key role these plans will play in guiding the development of centres across greater Sydney, the GSC's Chief Commissioner, Lucy Turnbull, has expressed pleasure that Sydney now has a plan that was "prepared concurrently with the Future Transport 2056 strategy and the State Infrastructure Strategy". The Shopping Centre Council will continue to engage with the GSC during the implementation phase of these plans.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MINISTRY ANNOUNCED; ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS GAZETTED

Following last week's state election, won by the Liberal Party, this week the new South Australian Ministry was announced and sworn-in. While more expansive portfolio responsibilities have been reported in the media, the [Government Gazette](#) published yesterday formalises the Ministerial appointments and related legislative administrative arrangements. In addition the new Premier, Steve Marshall MP, and Deputy Premier (and Attorney-General), Vickie Chapman MP, some relevant appointments include Rob Lucas MLC as Treasurer (and also reportedly Minister for Industrial Relations), with responsibility for the Shop Trading Hours Act; David Pisoni MP as Minister for Industry and Skills (and also reportedly Minister for Small Business), with responsibility for the Retail and Commercial Leases Act and Small Business Commissioner Act; Stephan Knoll MP as Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government (and Planning), with responsibilities for the Valuation of Land Act; and Corey Wingard MP as Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services. We note that some relevant pieces of legislation were not referenced in the Gazette.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE INQUIRY TO PROCEED: DUE TO REPORT BY SEPTEMBER

This week, the Senate approved a motion from NSW Senator John Williams to conduct an inquiry into the operation and effectiveness of the Franchising Code of Conduct, to be referred to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services, a 10-member committee which is Chaired by Liberal Party MP, Steve Irons. The Committee's home page for the inquiry has been [established](#), with submissions due by 4 May 2018, and a final report due by 30 September 2018. The [Terms of Reference](#) for the inquiry include issues relating to the Franchising Code of Conduct (under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010*), the Oil Code of Conduct, and other issues relevant to franchising such as the unfair contract term provisions.

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