

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

FRIDAY 29 JUNE 2018

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GREATER SYDNEY COMMISSION MOVED TO THE CENTRE OF GOVERNMENT

It was [announced](#) this week that, from 1 July, the Greater Sydney Commission (GSC) will report directly to the NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian. This elevated reporting line is a vote of confidence in the GSC and its leadership, and signals that the NSW Government is prioritising the delivery of the GSC's 'three cities' vision for greater Sydney ([Shop Talk 23/3/18](#)). In a related media statement, Premier Berejiklian notes that "reporting directly to the Premier will ensure the Commission is front and centre of Government decision making". Lucy Turnbull AO, the Chief Commissioner of the GSC, also states: "by reporting to the Premier we will effectively collaborate across Government agencies and ensure the Government's vision becomes a reality". The Shopping Centre Council supports the GSC and the direction it has set for greater Sydney's growth, including its strong emphasis on continuing to grow vibrant and accessible activity centres. In a recent submission to the NSW Government on retail planning issues, we noted that Shopping Centre Council members "will be important partners to the GSC, and the NSW Government, in achieving the strategic and spatial objectives in these Plans, and delivering against the employment, accessibility and community-based dividends anticipated to over the life of the Plans".

QUEENSLAND AUDITOR-GENERAL TABLES PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT

Queensland's Auditor-General tabled the performance audit report, [Managing local government rates and charges](#), in parliament this week. The Shopping Centre Council was engaged during the audit process and it is very pleasing that the report has noted issues with local government rating with local shopping centres, stating "we were unable to benchmark the level of general rates different councils charge for similar property types," going on to add, "(there is) large variance in cents to the dollar rate and minimum general rates across these councils. It is not possible to compare them in any meaningful way." We hope that following this evidence, the Government will take action.

NSW PARLIAMENT PASSES AUSTRALIA'S FIRST MODERN SLAVERY BILL

This week, the Assistant Minister for Home Affairs, Alex Hawke, tabled the [Modern Slavery Bill 2018](#) in the Federal Parliament. The Bill proposes to introduce a public reporting requirement on the risks of modern slavery in the operations and supply chains of businesses with annual consolidated revenue of more than \$100million. In his speech to Parliament, the Assistant Minister noted that "this increased transparency will create a level playing field for large businesses to disclose their modern slavery risks". It is also noted that it is hoped that Federal Parliament will pass the Bill before the end of the year. Interestingly, last week, the NSW Parliament passed its own [Modern Slavery Bill 2018](#) ([Shop Talk 8/6/18](#)). This Bill, tabled in the Parliament by Christian Democrat member, Paul Green, also introduces a new supply chain reporting requirement for businesses in NSW with turnover not less than \$50million. As it moved through the NSW Parliament, the Bill was amended to, among other things, ensure "that the supply chain reporting obligations in the bill do not overlap with any future Commonwealth regulation of modern slavery". Further detail on the implementation of both proposed schemes is still to be resolved. Minister Hawke noted that the Federal Government will work with the states and territories to "ensure we avoid multiple compliance frameworks which is critically important in providing business with certainty regarding their reporting obligations and minimising regulatory burden."

2018 SCCA MARKETING AWARDS: NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Nominations are now being [accepted](#) for the 2018 SCCA Marketing Awards. Nominations will close on Monday 6 August. Please see the [2018 Call for Entries Booklet](#) for more details, including revised judging criteria and entry guidelines. More information is also available on the Awards website. This year, the SCCA Marketing Awards Gala Dinner will be held on Wednesday 17 October 2018 from 6:00pm at Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf. Tickets will be available for purchase on Tuesday 7 August 2018 from the Awards [website](#).

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