



Friday 26 March 2010

[Archive](#)

SUNDAY TRADING BEGINS IN MACKAY (AT LAST) ON 16 MAY

More than two years after the application was first lodged, the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission has approved Sunday trading for Mackay to begin on 16 May 2010. The first application by the National Retail Association, supported by the Shopping Centre Council, was lodged in November 2007 but was not approved by the QIRC ([Shop Talk 26/9/08](#)). This decision was overturned on appeal, however, after irregularities in the hearing and the President of the QIRC directed that the matter be reheard by a different Bench ([Shop Talk 30/1/09](#)). The QIRC has now approved the application and Sunday trading will begin on 16 May 2010. This follows similar approvals for Rockhampton ([Shop Talk 5/2/10](#)) and Toowoomba ([Shop Talk 12/3/10](#)).

2010 QLD VALUATIONS UNAFFECTED BY RECENT LEGISLATION

The Queensland Minister for Natural Resources, Stephen Robertson MP, continues to peddle the line that the 2010 land valuations released this week, which show reductions in commercial values in many local government areas, demonstrates the controversy over the recent legislation was unjustified ([Shop Talk 12/2](#), [19/2](#), [26/2](#), [5/3](#) & [12/3/10](#)). The Minister shows he doesn't understand his own portfolio. The 2010 valuations are actually valuations of land *as at 1 October 2009* and the vast majority were conducted well in advance of the critical Pacific Fair Court of Appeal decision ([Shop Talk 29/1/10](#)) and all had been completed before the recent Bill was introduced. The new methodology in Mr Robertson's Bill would have dramatically changed the method of valuation in Queensland for *future valuations* and would have increased land values for all forms of commercial property, as well as residential investment property.

'BIG GUNS' ISSUE OF SHOPPING CENTRE NEWS NOW AVAILABLE

The 'Big Guns 2010' issue of *SCN (Shopping Centre News)* has now been published, with rankings of the largest shopping centres on a range of sales criteria. Subscriptions can be made by phoning (02) 9555 7494 or via the website: www.shoppingcentrenews.com.au.

SYDNEY METRO STRATEGY FIVE-YEAR REVIEW ANNOUNCED

The NSW Government has released a discussion paper, [Sydney Towards 2036](#), as a first step in the five-year review of the current Metropolitan Strategy, released in December 2005. Submissions can be made to the NSW Department of Planning until 30 April 2010.

COSTCO LODGES FINAL REPORT FOR DECISION ON AUBURN SITE

Costco has lodged with the NSW Department of Planning its [preferred project report and response to submissions](#) for its proposed warehouse and regional headquarters at Parramatta Road, Auburn ([Shop Talk 4/12/09](#)). While Costco has rejected the claims in our [submission](#), we maintain the proposal is inconsistent with the Draft Activity Centres Policy and creates a bad precedent for out-of-centre development and an unlevel competitive playing field. While Costco's entry into the Sydney market hasn't focussed on revitalising an activity centre, it is to be hoped its proposed roll-out across Sydney will not ignore activity centres and thereby bring broader economic and community benefits.

ADVANCE REGISTRATIONS FOR ICSC RECON IN MAY CLOSE SOON

RECon, the ICSCs' global retail convention in Las Vegas, will be held on 23-25 May 2010. Member-only packages, including airfares, hotel and conference registrations are available at [2010 ICSC RECon](#). Advance registrations must be made before 31 March.