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SOUTH AUSTRALIA FINALISES ANZAC WEEKEND ARRANGEMENTS

The South Australian Government has clarified arrangements for shop trading hours for the Anzac weekend. Because both Anzac Day (Sunday 25 April) and the following Monday (26 April) have been declared public holidays in South Australia, large shopping centres were facing a two-day closure. The Government has now [announced](#) that non-exempt shops (i.e. large shops) can trade from 12noon until 5pm on Anzac Day. The Government has also requested that exempt shops (small shops) remain closed until noon on that day. Non-exempt shops cannot trade on Monday 26 April.

We have updated the Australia-wide guide to public holiday trading for the Anzac Day weekend and this is available on our website [here](#).

SENATE COMMITTEE CONSIDERS CREEPING ACQUISITIONS BILL

The Senate Economics Committee has held hearings on a Bill introduced by Independent Senator Nick Xenophon which seeks to lower the threshold which the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission must adopt when it considers mergers and 'creeping acquisitions' under section 50 of the *Trade Practices Act*. The Shopping Centre Council lodged a submission opposing the *Trade Practices Amendment (Material Lessening of Competition – Richmond Amendment) Bill 2009* ([Shop Talk 5/2/10](#)) and has appeared before the Senate Committee. The majority of the [submissions](#) made on the Bill, including from the Law Council of Australia, the Treasury, the ACCC and the Business Council of Australia, are opposed to the changes proposed in the Bill.

SCCA DID NOT SEEK TO FRUSTRATE THE ARRIVAL OF COSTCO

There has been deliberate misrepresentation of the Shopping Centre Council's submission on Costco's proposed warehouse in Auburn ([Shop Talk 4/12/09](#)), which was approved [yesterday](#). Contrary to these reports, we warmly welcomed Costco's arrival in Australia, and the additional retail diversity it would bring, but believe the selected out-of-centre location in Sydney is contrary to the NSW Draft Activity Centres Policy and long-established planning principles which were reinforced at last year's COAG agreement on metropolitan planning. Costco has acknowledged this. SCCA made no criticism of Costco's opening in Melbourne last year because the selected site was properly zoned. As we've said before ([Shop Talk 26/3/10](#)), it is to be hoped that Costco's proposed rollout of stores in Sydney will seek to revitalise and strengthen existing activity centres.

US SHOPPING CENTRES EDUCATIONAL TOUR BEFORE RECON 2010

The International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) is holding a tour of US shopping centres in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and Atlanta in the lead up to this year's RECon in Las Vegas on 23-25 May 2010. Further details of the tour are [here](#). The program for RECon has been released and is available [here](#).

TIME RUNNING OUT TO LODGE Q'LAND LAND VALUATION APPEALS

A reminder that Queensland shopping centre owners have only 45 days from the date of issue of their 2010 land valuations – to take effect in July 2010 – to object to these new valuations. Important changes have been made to the valuation process this year which limit objections to those that are "properly made" and appeals are now strictly limited to the grounds raised in the objection. Owners considering objecting should seek legal advice but should do so quickly since time is now getting short.