



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

Friday 13 August 2010

[Archive](#)

SCCA OBJECTS TO FEDERAL LIBERAL PLEDGE ON CONTRACTS REGULATION

The Chairman of the Shopping Centre Council of Australia has [written](#) to the Leader of the Opposition, Tony Abbott, to express concern over the pledge to extend the new unfair contracts regulation to business-to-business contracts. Such a move would result in Australia standing alone among democratic countries in having such a law. The SCCA has also pointed out that this will increase the transactional costs of doing business in Australia and these costs will inevitably be reflected in the prices of goods and services. It has long been accepted that courts should not restrict the freedom of contract, nor interfere with the sanctity of contracts, unless there is a compelling case for intervention. No such compelling case, or evidence of market failure, has been established.

SCCA SEEKS FAIR ACCESS TO EXEMPTIONS TO ON-SELL ELECTRICITY

The SCCA has lodged a [submission](#) with the Australian Energy Regulator on its [Approach to Retail \(Electricity\) Exemptions Issues Paper](#). The paper outlines a proposed national approach of regulations and exemptions for the on-selling of electricity within embedded electricity networks – which are becoming increasingly common within shopping centres. Embedded networks can provide retail tenants with a more reliable and competitive electricity service than major electricity companies. This can be due to bulk purchasing of electricity and more direct servicing by shopping centre owners, particular in the current environment where electricity prices are increasing at a rapid rate (and that such increases are effectively unavoidable). We have argued for fair access to exemptions from requiring an electricity retailer authorisation to on-sell electricity (particularly where shopping centres have existing state-based exemptions).

WA GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE DISCUSSION PAPER ON TRADING HOURS REFORM

The WA Minister for Commerce, Bill Marmion, is preparing a discussion paper for public comment on the proposed extension of trading hours on Sunday in Perth to permit the sale of 'durable consumer goods'. This follows agreement between the Government and the Opposition in June ([Shop Talk 25/6/10](#)) for the passage of the Bill to extend mid-week trading hours throughout Perth to 9pm, which has been stalled in Parliament since last year. Mr Marmion told the *Sunday Times* the discussion paper "will be available in coming months".

RETAIL 2010 EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE HELD IN SYDNEY ON 20–21 SEPTEMBER

The Retail 2010 Conference will be held at the Sydney Exhibition Centre on 20 and 21 September. Key session themes include Branding, Shopper Marketing, People and Performance, Maximising Profitability, Multi-Channel Retailing and Effective In-Store Design. Click [here](#) to register or exhibit.

2010 PCA DIRECTORY OF WA SHOPPING CENTRES IS NOW AVAILABLE

The Property Council's Directory of WA Shopping Centres, providing a comprehensive listing and details of all shopping centres in WA, is now available. Click [here](#) to purchase a copy.

PCA SHOPPING CENTRE MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING COURSE ON 24 AUGUST

A reminder that the Property Council's Shopping Centre Management and Marketing Advanced Course will be held on 24-26 August. Further information and registration details are [here](#).