



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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[Archive](#)

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SET TO REVERSE THE BAN ON EASTER SUNDAY TRADING

The new Victorian Government has acted quickly to [implement](#) its pledge to reverse the ban on Easter Sunday trading, introduced by the previous Labor Government in 2003. The SCCA has lobbied strongly against the ban. The Labor Government implemented the ban in exchange for a substantial election donation made to the ALP by the Shop Assistants Union (SDAEA) during the 2002 election campaign. The change will mean large shops in Victoria will be required to close on only Christmas Day, Good Friday and on the morning of Anzac Day. This is the same as the law in Tasmania.

ACT SUPERMARKET FLOOR SPACE TEST IS YET ANOTHER FREE KICK FOR A FEW

In yet another intervention in the supermarket competition debate, the ACT Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope, [announced](#) in January that the ACT Government will investigate "a cap on the amount of floor space an individual supermarket operator can control in the ACT", as part of the ongoing implementation of the *2010 Supermarket Competition Policy* ([Shop Talk 9/10/09](#)). One of the justifications for the new floor space test was that it was "based on a scheme in operation in NSW". The SCCA had never heard of such a scheme, and it turns out such a scheme doesn't exist. Mr Stanhope's statement has now been corrected to state that the proposed floor space test was "based on a discussion paper prepared" for the NSW Government. We understand this was never a NSW Government proposal, and was merely a proposal by (not surprisingly) an independent supermarket operator. Mr Stanhope's continued ideological interventions in the market, and the resulting discrimination against Coles and Woolworths, will undoubtedly please chains such as Supabarn and Aldi, but it is difficult to understand how these will enhance supermarket competition in the ACT and deliver lower grocery prices to Canberrans.

ACT GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES THE ARRIVAL OF COSTCO IN CANBERRA

Mr Stanhope has also [announced](#) that Costco will open its third Australian store, totaling 13,500 square metres, at Canberra Airport. The ACT Government has previously been critical of commercial developments at Canberra Airport which had never been envisaged under the Territory Plan. Commercial developments on airport land are approved by the Federal Government, under the major development plan provisions of the *Airports Act*. This means the ACT Government will have no direct say in the development approval, including on such important matters as the contributions required to compensate for the impact that such a major development will have on Canberra's surrounding roads and infrastructure.

NEW MINISTERS IN KEY PORTFOLIOS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CABINET RESHUFFLE

Bernard Finnigan, a new Minister, takes over the Industrial Relations portfolio (with responsibility for trading hours) in the SA Cabinet reshuffle [announced](#) this week by the Premier, Mike Rann, following the retirement of two Ministers. The Attorney-General and new Deputy Premier, John Rau, also takes responsibility for Urban Development and Planning, while Jack Snelling replaces Kevin Foley (who remains in Cabinet) as the new Treasurer. Tom Koutsantonis remains Minister for Small Business and Gail Gago remains Minister for Consumer Affairs.

PCA VICTORIA SEMINARS ON THE RETAIL LEASES ACT THIS MONTH AND IN MAY

The Property Council Victoria will host half-day seminars on the Victorian *Retail Leases Act* on 22 February and 3 May, of vital importance for centre management and leasing staff. Click [here](#) to register for February and [here](#) to register for May.