



# SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE  
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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[Archive](#)

## GUIDE TO EASTER/ANZAC TRADING HOURS BUT STILL UNCLEAR IN SOME STATES

The National Retail Association has published a comprehensive [guide](#) to trading restrictions around Australia over the Easter and Anzac weekend. It should be noted, however, some States are still to finalise arrangements. South Australia is still to announce whether shops in Adelaide (and some parts of regional SA) can trade on the additional public holiday on Tuesday 26 April (caused by Easter Monday falling on Anzac Day). The Bill to permit shops to open in Victoria on Easter Sunday ([Shop Talk 10/2/11](#)) is still to be passed by Parliament but this is expected to occur before Easter. Also the Shopping Centre Council has been granted an exemption ([Shop Talk 15/10/10](#)), which permits its members' shopping centres in Perth to open from 8am to 5pm on Tuesday 26 April.

## NSW TRADING HOURS EXEMPTION PROCESS IS AN UNMITIGATED FARCE

In the NRA [guide](#), referred to above, contrast Victoria with NSW. Victoria's arrangements can be summarised in less than one page; NSW's arrangements (and, of course, Queensland's) go on for pages. NSW, in 2008, adopted a system whereby retailers can apply to trade on Boxing Day and Easter Sunday in "exceptional circumstances". This was supposed to be part of an initiative to remove unnecessary red tape on business. Instead this has created even more administrative and legal expense for NSW businesses and NSW taxpayers. To make things worse, the NSW Administrative Decisions Tribunal has [interpreted](#) "exceptional circumstances" so narrowly that it is unlikely that the Second Coming would qualify as exceptional. It is to be hoped this is one area that will be reviewed after the NSW election on 26 March. Victoria and Tasmania provide a model for sensible and rational trading hours regulatory reform.

## QUEENSLAND TO DELAY ISSUING THE 2011 ROUND OF LAND VALUATION NOTICES

The Queensland Government has announced that the 2011 land valuation notices, due to be issued before 31 March (and which are operative from 30 June), will now not be due to be issued until 30 June. The Valuer-General expects, however, to be able to issue valuations by mid-May. The delay is to ensure that the effects of the recent floods and cyclone can be taken into consideration. This is a welcome decision but it will cause some difficulty for shopping centre owners in preparing their 2011-12 budgets. This is because land tax and council rates for 2011-12 are assessed on the land values in place as at 30 June 2011 and these now won't be known until around mid-May. In addition, of course, this is the first year that land values will be assessed on a site valuation basis (compared to unimproved land value) ([Shop Talk 24/9/10](#)) and this will also complicate budgeting.

## WESTFIELD A WINNER IN 2010 ICSC USA DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

We're a bit late in doing so but congratulations to Westfield which won Gold Awards at the 2010 [International Council of Shopping Centers' United States Design and Development Awards](#). The winning designs were: Westfield Galleria at Roseville (California) for *Renovation or Expansion of an Existing Project – for retail projects over 500,001 sq. ft of total retail space*; and Westfield SouthCenter (Tukwila, Washington) for *Renovation or Expansion of an Existing Project – for retail projects over 500,001 sq. ft of total retail space*.

## PROPERTY COUNCIL WA COCKTAIL PARTY RETAIL PROPERTY AWARDS NEXT WEEK

The PCA WA is hosting a cocktail evening on 22 February to acknowledge winners of the 2011 Retail Property Awards. Registration is available [here](#).