



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

Thursday 14 April 2011

[Archive](#)

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT MAKES A START ON INFRASTRUCTURE CHARGES

The Queensland Government this week [announced](#) its response to the report of the Infrastructure Charges Taskforce ([Shop Talk 17/3/11](#) & [23/12/10](#)). There were some positive announcements, such as a moratorium for three years on the local function charge for state roads and the establishment of a Major Projects Office. (Curiously, however, some of these positive announcements, such as the MPO, are cast in very tentative terms: "The Government *will consider options to potentially* establish a Major Projects Office. . ."). Disappointingly, however, the Government announced a regulated infrastructure charge for retail projects (of \$180 per m² of gross floor area plus a fixed storm water charge) which will do little to kick-start shopping centre development projects, which have stalled because of absurd charges levied by councils and state agencies (such as the DTMR). The Government's announced charge was at the top end of the range recommended by the Taskforce (\$125 to \$200 per m² of GFA).

The Shopping Centre Council has consistently provided the Government with evidence that the regulated charge needed to be at the bottom of this range if there was to be any chance of making these projects feasible. This was not an ambit claim or an attempt to side step paying a fair share of the cost of necessary infrastructure. Our evidence showed the level of charges which have made previous retail developments in Queensland financially viable. We have also presented the Government with evidence of the level of charges for similar projects in Victoria and which have led to these projects going ahead. A charge of \$180 per m², when coupled with the additional costs of development conditions and roadworks, is still gouging on the part of local government and state agencies and ensures these developments are not viable. This is a wasted opportunity for Queensland.

QIRC APPROVES SUNDAY TRADING FOR EMERALD IN QUEENSLAND

The Queensland Industrial Relations Commission has [approved](#) a National Retail Association application, supported by the Shopping Centre Council, for Sunday trading, from 9am to 6pm, for the Emerald area in central Queensland. The QIRC has also approved public holiday trading, from 8.30am to 5.30pm, on all public holidays, except Christmas Day, Good Friday, Anzac Day and Labour Day. The decision, which will be of benefit to a number of major retailers, as well as to Centro Emerald, is operative from 8 May.

AUSTRALIAN CARBON TRUST CHANGES ITS NAME TO LOW CARBON AUSTRALIA

The Australian Carbon Trust, an Australian Government-owned company focusing on investing in energy efficiency and assisting businesses to identify carbon neutral goods and services, is now called Low Carbon Australia. For more details of its work refer: www.lowcarbonaustralia.com.au

SERIES OF SEMINARS ON PRACTICAL RETAILING STRATEGIES IN PERTH IN MAY

The Retail Traders Association of WA will hold seminars in May on practical retailing strategies. Register via the following links for [The Social Media Phenomenon](#) on 10 May; [The Secret to Charismatic Presentations](#) on 17 May; [Marketing-Making Your Budget Work for You](#) on 24 May.

RETAIL BREAKFAST HOSTED BY THE VICTORIAN PROPERTY COUNCIL ON 5 MAY

The Property Council, Victoria, is holding a Retail Breakfast in Melbourne on 5 May to discuss online retailing in Australia and emerging international trends. Click [here](#) to register.