



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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COAG POSTPONES NATIONAL LICENCING REFORMS UNTIL 1 JULY 2013

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) last week reaffirmed commitment to the new system of national occupational licensing but has postponed introduction of the first tranche of national licences (which includes property occupations, including real estate agents) until 1 July 2013. The Regulation Impact Statement for the new national licensing system for property occupations, which will be the basis for public consultation, is now expected to be released in mid-2012. The COAG Business Advisory Forum said national licensing "would make major inroads into business costs and deliver significant improvements to productivity". Board members of the [National Occupational Licensing Authority](#) (NOLA) have now been appointed.

MISGUIDED SOLUTIONS TO TRAFFIC PROBLEMS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Controversial proposals for limiting parking spaces, and imposing parking levies, in some Perth Activity Centres, contained in a 'leaked' WA Department of Planning Discussion Paper, are of concern. If implemented some owners of shopping centres (and other buildings) would be confronted by a restriction in the number of parking spaces; management of the parking spaces would be out of their hands; they would be taxed on their spaces through a new levy; while still being required to provide other transport solutions as part of development conditions. The interests of shoppers, retailers and owners it seems are secondary. These proposals are not, however, government policy, although they are part of a targeted consultation process in the preparation of proposed draft State Planning Policy. Such a draft SPP would need to be endorsed by the Government before it is released. The Shopping Centre Council responded in February to the Department, expressing concern about seeking to use parking strategies to deal with peak hour transport demand management.

UNITED VOICE TRASHES THE WORK OF ITS CLEANER MEMBERS

The latest stunt by United Voice in its campaign for an over-award payment for shopping centre cleaners ([Shop Talk 25/11/11](#) & [14/2/12](#)) is to release to the media a study purporting to show cleaning standards had fallen in (unidentified) shopping centres. It's an odd thing for a union to do: release a report which effectively trashes the work of its own members. The union claims it is the result of cuts in cleaning costs but does anyone think such a report would have been commissioned and released if the cleaning contractors had capitulated and agreed to the over-award payment. Of course not! The cleaning contractors have warned the union staff cuts would be necessary if they were forced to accommodate an unbudgeted and unaffordable increase in their wages bill. Cleaners under the Award have already received three wage increases over the last 18 months.

WESTFIELD WORLD RETAIL STUDY TOUR PRIZE FOR 2012 YOUNG RETAILER OF YEAR

Westfield has [announced](#) it will again provide a place on the [Westfield World Retail Study Tour](#) for the winner of the National Retail Association's 2012 Young Retailer of the Year. [Entries](#) close on 25 May. Further details are available [here](#).

UPDATED TRADING HOURS GUIDE FOR ANZAC DAY 2012 PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Click [here](#) for a guide to trading hours on Anzac Day (Wednesday 25 April) in each State and Territory.

PCA NORTH QUEENSLAND RETAIL MARKET OUTLOOK 2012 LUNCHEON

The Property Council's inaugural North Queensland Retail Market Outlook Luncheon will be held in Townsville on Friday 27 April. For further information and bookings click [here](#).