# Senate Economics Reference Committee Retail Leasing Arrangements

#### **Questions on Notice and Supplementary Matters**

#### National Retail Tenancy Working Group

The first Working Group was established by COAG in the third quarter of 2008 in response to the first Productivity Commission's Report on Retail Leasing. It had a broad representation from federal and state governments, various retail industry associations, small business, the property sector and legal groups. Its first task was to address the Disclosure Statement that all jurisdictions. It had one meeting of all stakeholders. The meeting was facilitated by one of the major accounting firms.

Following the meeting the late Michael Redfern from the Melbourne legal firm Russell and Kennedy was given the task of producing a draft for further discussion. The draft was produced in December 2008 and circulated. A copy of the Draft is attached. The rigid format of the statement meant that the majority of the larger landlords could not integrate it with their systems without substantial costs.

The Group did not meet again.

Following the second report by the Productivity Commission, the government through Minister Bradbury in 2012 established another Working Group to look at retail issues including retail leasing. It had three meetings with a concentration on the GST threshold on imported retail goods. It did discuss retail leasing issues without any real recommendations as the discussions largely came from the various entrenched views on the various issues without any solutions being provided that may have resolved the issue.

There was a change of government and there have been no further meetings. The NRA is unaware of the status of the Group.

#### Alternate Dispute Resolution – Mediation

The National Retail Association supports the alternate dispute resolution process as does the COAG members. It has proved highly successful in the majority of jurisdictions. However the resolution of the dispute in mediation often includes a "Without Prejudice" offer known as Calderbank letters. This means that the resolution offer cannot be used except as to costs if the dispute is taken further.

Courts treat Calderbank letters seriously but many of jurisdictions have tribunals as the next stage on the basis that it provides quick and low cost dispute resolutions. These tribunals have a different structure for cost recovery and any offers made in the mediation process cannot be disclosed in the tribunal hearing.

If there was a penalty associated with the mediation process being taken to the next stage it could see more realistic offers being made in the mediation and provide a quicker resolution to the dispute.

• Uniform limit on the amount of claim under the Act

The limit should be set at \$750,000 across all jurisdictions. That limit is for one dispute.

#### National Lease Register

The Law Council in its submission indicated that a Uniform Torrens Titles Act is currently being worked up and this would provide a consistent approach across all jurisdictions for the registrations of all leases whilst respecting the rights of each state to maintain their own Torrens register. New

South Wales would provide the best model where all leases for more than three years must be registered.

First Right of Refusal for lease renewal

The Tasmanian Regulations that have been mentioned during the hearings and in some submissions have the following provisions for renewal.

### "29. Termination and renewal of leases

- (2) In the absence of any agreement, and subject to subclause (3), not less than 3 months' notice before the expiry of a lease the property owner is to gove the tenant in writing stating-
- (a) the conditions on which he or she is prepared to renew the lease; or
- (b) that the lease will not be renewed: or
- (c) that the tenant will be able to remain as a periodical tenant under the terms of the lease; or
- (d) that the tenant will be able to remain as a periodical tenant under the terms of the lease; or
- (3) Within 30 days of receiving a notice under subclause (2)(a), the tenant is to give the property owner notice that he or she-
  - (a) accepts the conditions for the renewal; or
  - **(b)** wishes to negotiate the conditions. Stating the alterations to the conditions the tenant seeks; or
  - (c) does not wish to renew.
- (4) If the tenant fails to give notice under subclause (3), the lease is not renewed.
- **(5)** Within 30 days of receiving a notice under subclause (2)(c) or (d), the tenant is to give the property owner notice in writing stating whether he or she agrees to the continuation of the lease as proposed
- (6) If the property owner fails to provide the information set out in subclause (2), the term of the lease, at the tenant's election, may be extended so that, before being required to vacate the premises, the tenant has the information for the period required under that subclause.
- (7) The tenant's election is exercisable by notice given in writing to the owner within 2 weeks after the last date on which notice under subclause (2) may be given.
- (8) If the tenant fails to give the notice required under subclause (5) or (7), the tenant is taken to not wish to renew.
- (9) If the property owner offers to renew a lease, the rent under the renewed lease is to be market value for those premises determined in accordance with clause 21 unless agreement to the contrary."

The Tasmanian provisions do not provide for the first right of refusal. However it does provide that if the landlord chooses to offer a renewed lease to the tenant, it should be at a rent that reflects the market rent for the premises for the permitted use.

In the event that the tenant believes the rent is in excess of a market rent, the rent can be determined by a specialist valuer in accordance with clause 21 that outlines how the rent will be determined.

Such a provision would see the landlord act in good faith and not put an ambit claim on the rent expectations for the premises and would prevent the "highest and best use" being used instead of the market rent for the permitted use as stated in the lease.

The NRA has put this to all the recent reviews of state legislation but it has not been accepted. It was a solution that Association believed would give both parties a solution to the issue of the sitting tenant renewing the lease. It would also mean the landlord would be more realistic in their claim on rent knowing that there was a dispute procedure.

This solution could be rolled out nationally.

#### Gross leases or semi gross leases

The Association maintains that as a part of red tape reduction and regulation reform that by adopting either gross leases or semi gross leases all the provisions relating to the recovery of outgoings and marketing funds charges would be taken out of the various Acts and Regulation.

In the Proposal for a Harmonised Landlord's Disclosure Statement the details relating to outgoings takes up two pages. In addition to this, the landlord is required to provide annually a written annual statement of the budget estimate plus and audited statement.

The tenant would prefer on charge for occupying the property and that includes rent, outgoings and marketing funds. A semi-gross lease would include rent plus the statutory charges of municipal rates and taxes.

#### • Term of lease

There should be no restriction on the term of lease and should be subject to negotiation. The mention of the five year minimum term has meant the landlord will only offer that as the only term available for the tenant.

# Senate Economics Reference Committee Retail Leasing Arrangements

Occupancy Cost Growth of tenants in shopping centres

The committee indicated that they would be interested in the growth of occupancy costs in regional shopping centres. The following information is from the Westfield's presentation of their 2007 financial report for the year ending 31 December 2007 and SCentre's half yearly report given in August 2014. Their full year report will be given on 24 February 2014.

	2014	2007
Number of Centres	38	44
Number of retail outlets	11,075	11,430
Portfolio leased %	99.5%	99.5%
Specialty Occupancy Cost %	19.0%	16.6%
Lease deals	1,436	3,377
Area of lease deals	183,651	565,414sqm
Average specialty store rent	\$1,547psm	\$1,249psm
Average specialty store rent growth	1.7%	4.7%
Specialty stores sales growth	2.7%	7.1%

The half year 2014 presentation shows that specialty outlet occupancy costs have risen from 16.6% to 19.0% which is a level that for many speciality stores especially the individual trader is unsustainable if the trader is not vertical not able to do their own importing. The increase in occupancy is the result of the annual rent increase of CPI +2%.

It should be pointed that the occupancy cost reported is an average which means there will be speciality retail shops with occupancy costs in excess of 20%. At these levels these costs exceed the wages bill for most retail specialty shops that top out at 15% including oncosts.

The new lease deals in 2014, with a growth of 1.7%, reflect the poor economic state of retail trade.

# **Private & Confidential**

# Proposal for a Harmonised Landlord's Disclosure Statement

Draft for Confidential Consultation with Selected Stakeholders

LANDLORD
TENANT
PREMISES
DATE
1 The base rent under this lease in the first year is
2 Turnover rent IS/IS NOT payable in year 1
3 Total estimated outgoings and promotion and marketing costs for the tenant in year 1
4 The term of this lease is
5 There IS/IS NOT an option for the tenant to renew the lease on expiry
6 The commencement date is
7 Estimated handover date is
8 This lease DOES/DOES NOT provide the tenant with exclusivity in relation to permitted use of premises

# Private & Confidential

# Proposal for a Harmonised Landlord's Disclosure Statement

# Draft for Confidential Consultation with Selected Stakeholders

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# Part 1 Premises 1 Premises details Street address of premises [Insert street address of premises, shop number (if applicable), name of the building/centre in which the premises is located (if applicable), street address of the building/centre (if applicable)] 1.2 Plan of premises (if available) [Insert description of the premises by reference to a prepared plan. Attach the plan to this disclosure statement at item 33.1 if available] Lettable area of the premises (in m2) 1.3 $m^2$ Actual **Estimate** Will a survey be conducted? Existing structures, fixtures, plant and equipment in the premises provided by the landlord (excluding any works, fitout and refurbishment at Part 3). Select as appropriate air conditioning plastered walls suspended ceilings electrical distribution load lighting telephone floor coverings shop front water supply painted walls sink sprinklers waste mechanical exhaust cool room other hot water service grease trap 1.5 Services and facilities provided by the landlord (for example security services cleaning etc) 2 Permitted use

2.1 Description of permitted use [Note: the tenant should investigate whether the proposed use of the premises is permitted under planning laws]

Is the permitted use at item 2.1 exclusive to the tenant?

3 N	Number of car parking spaces	
3.1	.1 Approximate total spaces	spaces
3.2	.2 Available spaces for customers of the building/centre	spaces
3.3	.3 Reserved spaces for use of the tenant only	spaces
4 H	Head lease	
4.1	.1 Is the premises under a head lease or crown lease?  [Select one of the following]	Yes No
4.2	.2 Has the landlord provided a copy of the head lease or crown lease to the tenant?  [Select one of the following]  Yes – attached	d at item 33.2 No
4.3	3 Current term under the head lease or crown lease and option/s to renew [Insert a list of the current term and any options for further terms held by the landlord under the head lease. "Not applicable"]	If there is no head lease, state
	Current term: years, / /20 to / /20	
	Options to renew years, / /20 to / /20	
4.4	.4 Is the head landlord's consent to the lease required?	Yes No
Part	t 2 Lease Term And Option/s To Renew Lease	
	Lease term	
<b>カコ</b>		/ / 00
5.1	Date of lease commencement (see also date of handover at item 7)	/ / 20
5.2		/ / 20 Actual Estimate Years Months
	2 Length of term	Actual Estimate
5.2 5.3	2 Length of term 3 Date of lease expiry (based on the date of lease commencement at item 5.1)	Actual Estimate Years Months
5.2 5.3 6 Op	2 Length of term 3 Date of lease expiry (based on the date of lease commencement at item 5.1)  Option/s to renew lease	Actual Estimate Years Months / / 20
5.2 5.3 6 Op	2 Length of term 3 Date of lease expiry (based on the date of lease commencement at item 5.1)	Actual Estimate Years Months / / 20
5.2 5.3 6 Op	2 Length of term 3 Date of lease expiry (based on the date of lease commencement at item 5.1)  Option/s to renew lease  1 Option/s details (length of option/s term/s, period of option/s, dates between which op [Insert a list of all options to renew lease. If there are no options to renew lease, insert "Not applicable"]	Actual Estimate Years Months / / 20
5.2 5.3 6 Op	2 Length of term 3 Date of lease expiry (based on the date of lease commencement at item 5.1)  Option/s to renew lease  1 Option/s details (length of option/s term/s, period of option/s, dates between which op [Insert a list of all options to renew lease. If there are no options to renew lease, insert "Not applicable"]	Actual Estimate Years Months / 20  attion/s must be exercised)
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5.2 5.3 6 Op	2 Length of term 3 Date of lease expiry (based on the date of lease commencement at item 5.1)  Option/s to renew lease  Option/s details (length of option/s term/s, period of option/s, dates between which op [Insert a list of all options to renew lease. If there are no options to renew lease, insert "Not applicable"]  Length of option/s  Period of option/s  Exercise 1	Actual Estimate Years Months / 20  Ition/s must be exercised)  Discise dates to / 20 to / 20
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5.2 5.3 6 Or 6.1	2 Length of term 3 Date of lease expiry (based on the date of lease commencement at item 5.1)  Option/s to renew lease  Option/s details (length of option/s term/s, period of option/s, dates between which op [Insert a list of all options to renew lease. If there are no options to renew lease, insert "Not applicable"]  Length of option/s  Period of option/s  Exercise 1	Actual Estimate Years Months / 20  Ition/s must be exercised)  Discise dates to / 20 to / 20
5.2 5.3 <b>6 O</b> r 6.1	2 Length of term 3 Date of lease expiry (based on the date of lease commencement at item 5.1)  Option/s to renew lease  1 Option/s details (length of option/s term/s, period of option/s, dates between which op [Insert a list of all options to renew lease. If there are no options to renew lease, insert "Not applicable"]  Length of option/s  Period of option/s  Exerce years  / / 20 to / / 20 / / 20  years / / 20 to / / 20 / / 20	Actual Estimate Years Months / 20  Ition/s must be exercised)  Discise dates to / 20 to / 20
5.2 5.3 <b>6 O</b> r 6.1	Date of lease expiry (based on the date of lease commencement at item 5.1)  Option/s to renew lease  Option/s details (length of option/s term/s, period of option/s, dates between which op [Insert a list of all options to renew lease. If there are no options to renew lease, insert "Not applicable"]  Length of option/s  Period of option/s  Exerce years  / /20 to / /20 / /20  years / /20 to / /20 / /20  Years / /20 to / /20 / /20  Years / /20 to / /20 / /20  Years / /20 to / /20 / /20	Actual Estimate Years Months / 20  Ition/s must be exercised)  Discise dates to / 20 to / 20

8 La	indlord's works
8.1	Description of works to be carried out by the landlord before the date of lease commencement (excluding any works that form part of the tenant's fitout at item 9)
8.2	Estimate of expected contribution by the tenant to the landlord's works [Note: see also outgoings (item 14) in relation to any maintenance and repair outgoings]
9 Te	enant's fitout works
9.1	Fitout works to be carried out by the tenant (excluding the landlord's works at item 8)
9.2	Is the landlord providing any contribution towards the cost of the tenant's fitout?  Yes  No  If yes please provide details of landlords contribution
	Does this fitout need to be agreed by the landlord?  Yes  No

Part 2	4 Rent
10 A	nnual base rent
10.1	Starting annual base rent (when the lease commences) \$ Including GST Excluding GST
10.2	Rent free period
	Describe any rent free period
10.3	Date of rent commencement
	How rent payments are to be made
	[Insert description of how rent is paid, eg by equal monthly instalments in advance on the first day of each month, other than the first and last payments which is calculated on a pro-rata basis]
	ent adjustment (rent review)
	Rent adjustment date/s and adjustment method  [Insert a list of all rent adjustment dates and adjustment methods, for example: fixed increase by ###%, fixed increase by \$###, current
	market rent, indexed to CPIJ
	Dates Control of the
	Method of rent adjustment
12 Tı	urnover rent
12.1	Is turnover rent payable by the tenant?
	[Select one of the following and provide details]  Yes
If ves	No No describe the method of calculation for turnover rent
,	
12.2	Does the landlord require the tenant to provide turnover details (where turnover rent is not payable)?
12.2	Yes No
D 1 - 1	
	5 Outgoings
	enant contribution to landlord's outgoings
	Is the tenant required to pay or contribute to the landlord's outgoings?  Yes  No
13.2	Describe any outgoings free period

13 Tenant contribution to landlord's outgoings (cont)	
13.3 Date on which payment of outgoings is to commence	/ / 20
13.4 Describe the formulae for apportioning outgoings  [Insert formulae of how the outgoings payable by the tenant are to be apportioned]	

# 14 Outgoings estimates (annual) [State whether any of the following outgoings are payable by the tenant. The landlord may be prevented by the retail leasing laws from claiming certain costs.]

14.1	Administration	Estimate (including GST) pe for the buildin	
	Administration costs (excluding management fees but including wages)	\$	
	Audit fees	\$	
	Management fees	\$	
14.2	Advertising and promotion	\$	
	[Note: The landlord may be prevented by the retail leasing laws from claiming certain advertising and	l promotion costs]	
14.3	Air conditioning/temperature control		
	Air conditioning maintenance	\$	
	Air conditioning operating costs	\$	
14.4	Building/centre management  [Note: The landlord may be prevented by the retail leasing laws from claiming certain capital costs]		
	Body corporate/strata levies	\$	
	Building intelligence services	\$	
	Customer traffic flow services	\$	
	Energy management services	\$	
	Gardening and landscaping	\$	
	Insurance	\$	
	Pest control	\$	
	Ventilation	\$	
14.5	Building/centre security		
	Caretaking	\$	
	Emergency systems	\$	
	Fire levy		
	Fire protection	\$	
	Security services	\$	
14.6	Cleaning		
	Cleaning consumables	\$	
	Cleaning costs (excluding consumables)	\$	
14.7	Communications		
	Post boxes	\$	
	Public telephones	\$	

14 Outgoings estimates	
14.8 Customer facilities	
Car parking	\$
Child minding	\$
Escalators	\$
Lifts	\$
Uniforms	\$
14.9 Customer information services	
Information directories	\$
Public address/music	\$
Signage	\$
14.10 Government rates and charges	
[Note: The landlord may be prevented by the retail leasing laws from claiming land tax]	
Land tax	\$
Local government rates and charges	\$
Water, sewerage and drainage rates and charges	\$
14.11 Repairs	
[Note: The landlord may be prevented by the retail leasing laws from claiming certain capital costs]	Φ.
Repairs and maintenance	\$
Sinking fund for repairs and maintenance	\$
14.12 Utility services	•
Electricity	\$
Gas	\$
Oil	\$
Water	\$
14.13 Waste management	
Sewerage disposal	\$
Waste collection and disposal	\$
14.14 Other outgoings	\$
	\$
	\$
14.15 Total outgoings for the building/centre	\$
14.16 Formula for determining tenant's share of the total outgoings for the building/centre	
14.17 Estimated tenant contribution to outgoings	\$
Part 6 Other Costs	
15 Promotion and marketing costs	
15.1 Is the tenant required to contribute towards advertising and promotional costs (including marketing fund contributions) for the building/centre?	Yes No

15 Promot	tion and marketing costs
[Select of	nt's contribution to advertising and promotional costs per annum  one of the following and provide details]  pplicable
	contribution per annum is \$ Actual Estimate
	contribution per annum is % of the rent (excluding GST) payable from time to time
	[insert details of tenant's contribution per annum and how this is determined]
16 Other n	nonetary obligations and charges
	ther initial up-front costs in relation to the issue of the lease
[Insert o	details of any initial up-front monetary obligations or charges under the lease which are not referred to elsewhere in this ure statement]
D . 7 All	
	eration Works Renovations, Extensions, Redevelopment, Demolition)
17 Alterati	
buildir	nere any alteration works, planned or known to the landlord at this point in time, to the premises or ng/centre including surrounding roads during the term or any further term/s?  one of the following and provide details]
Yes	
No	
If yes please	e provide details
18 Clause	/s in lease dealing with relocation and demolition works
18.1 Clause	e/s in lease which provide/s for relocation of the tenant
Clause	
18.2 Clause	e/s in lease which provide/s for the demolition of the premises or building/centre
Clause	e/s of the lease Not applicable

Part	B Trading Hours				
19 C	ore trading hours relevant to the tena	nt			
	Monday			am to	pm
	Tuesday			am to	pm
	Wednesday			am to	pm
	Thursday			am to	pm
	Friday			am to	pm
	Saturday			am to	pm
	Sunday			am to	pm
	Public holidays			am to	pm
20 T	enants access to premises outside co	re trading h	ours		
20.1	Is the tenant permitted to access the premis [Select one of the following and provide details]	ses and buildir	ng/centre outside the core	e trading hours?	
	Yes				
	No				
	If yes please provide details including costs	<b>;</b>			
Part	9 Retail Shopping Centre Details	S			
[Note	e: this Part must be completed only if the premises are in	in a retail shopping	centre as defined by the retail	tenancy laws]	
21 R	etail shopping centre details				
21.1	Total number of shops				No
	Gross lettable area of the centre (in m²)		m <sup>2</sup>	Actual	Estimate
	nnual turnover of the centre				
			_		
	Annual estimated turnover (where collected			ig GST Exc	luding GST
22.2	Annual estimated turnover by specialty shop		•		
	Food \$	m <sup>2</sup>	Including GST / Excluding		
	Non food \$	m <sup>2</sup>	Including GST / Excluding		
	Services \$	m <sup>2</sup>	Including GST / Excluding	ng GST	

23 N	lajor/anchor tenants
23.1	Major/anchor tenants and lease expiry dates (Department store, discount department store supermarkets)  [Insert list of all major and anchor tenants, and the dates on which leases held by those tenants expire]
	Major/anchor tenant Lease expiry date
	/ / 20
	/ / 20
	/ / 20
24 F	loor plan of the centre
24.1	Floor plan showing tenancy mix, common areas, and common area trading and major tenants
	Attached at item 34.1
24.2	Is the tenancy mix likely to change during the term of the lease? [Select one of the following and provide details]
	Yes – [Insert details of changes to the tenancy mix, process for changing the tenancy mix even if no changes are presently known or likely]
	No
24.3	Assurance as to current tenant mix [Select one of the following]
	The tenant is assured that the current tenant mix will not be altered by the introduction of a competitor.
	The landlord is not prepared to give the tenant an assurance that the current tenant mix will not be altered by the introduction of a competitor.
25 C	sustomer traffic flow information
25.1	Does the landlord collect customer traffic flow information? [Select one of the following and provide details]
	Yes – attached at item 34.2
	No
26 C	asual mall licensing for common areas
26.1	Is there a casual mall licensing policy?  [Select one of the following and provide details]
	Yes – attached at item 34.3
	Not applicable

Part 10 Other Disclosures				
27 Other disclosures				
27.1	Current legal proceeding in relation to the lawful use of the premises or building/centre			
28 Representations by landlord				
28.1	Any other representations by the landlord or the landlord's agent [Landlord to insert details of any other oral or written representations made by the landlord or the landlord's agent]			

# Part 11 Landlord Acknowledgements and Signing

# 29 Acknowledgement by landlord

By signing this disclosure statement, the landlord confirms and acknowledges that:

- this disclosure statement contains all representations in relation to the proposed lease by the landlord and the landlord's agents;
- this disclosure statement reflects all agreements that have been made by the parties; and
- the landlord has not knowingly withheld information which is likely to have an impact on the tenant's proposed business.



## Warnings to landlord when completing this disclosure statement

• The tenant may have remedies including termination of a lease if the information in this statement is misleading, false or materially incomplete.

# 30.1 Name of landlord [Insert name of the landlord] 30.2 Signed by the landlord or the landlord's agent for and on behalf of the landlord X 30.3 Name of landlord's authorised representative or landlord's agent [Insert name of the person signing with the authority of the landlord] 30.4 Date / / 20

# Part 12 Tenant Acknowledgements and Signing

# 31 Acknowledgements by tenant

By signing this disclosure statement, the tenant confirms and acknowledges that the tenant received this disclosure statement.



## Before entering into a lease, tenants should consider these key questions:

- Have you sought independent legal and financial advice?
- Does the planning authority allow your proposed use for the premises under planning laws?
- Is the security of your occupancy right affected by:
  - mortgages, charges or encumbrances granted by the landlord?
  - rights and obligations under a head lease?
- Does the premises comply with building and safety regulations? Is the premises affected by outstanding notices by any authority?
- Could your trading be affected by disturbances or changes to the building/centre?
- Does the landlord require you to refurbish the premises regularly or at the end of the lease?
- Can the landlord end the lease early even if you comply with the lease?
- Are all the existing structures, fixtures, plant and equipment in good working order?
- Is the tenant required to make good the premises at the end of the lease?
- Is the tenancy mix of the shopping centre (if applicable) likely to change during the course of the lease?
  - see question 24.2

32 Tenant's signature			
32.1	Name of Tenant [Insert name of the tenant]		
32.2	Signed by the tenant or for and on behalf of the tenant		
	X		
32.3	Name of tenant's authorised representative		
	[Insert name of the person signing with the authority of the tenant]		
32.4	Date / / 20		

Part 13 Attachments					
33 List of attachments					
33.1 Plan of premises (see item 1.2) 33.2 Head lease or crown lease (see item 4.2) 33.3 Additional attachments [Insert list of any additional attachments]	Yes Yes	Not applicable  Not applicable			
34 List of attachments – retail shopping centre					
Attached? [Note: this item must be completed only if the premises are in a retail shopping centre as defined by the retail tenancy laws]  34.1 Floor plan (see item 24.1)  Yes  Not applicable					
<ul><li>34.1 Floor plan (see item 24.1)</li><li>34.2 Customer traffic flow statistics (see item 25.1)</li></ul>	Yes	Not applicable  Not applicable			
34.3 Casual mall licensing policy (see item 26.1)	Yes	Not applicable			
34.4 Additional attachments relating to the retail shopping centre [Insert list of any additional attachments relating to the retail shopping centre]					