

**15 MAY 2024**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY WELCOMES NEW NSW KNIFE LAWS: SEEKS FURTHER DETAILS**

The shopping centre industry has welcomed today's announcement by the NSW Premier Chris Minns on legislation which would provide NSW Police with wandering powers in shopping centres and other 'crowded places'.

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia (SCCA) has long advocated for tougher laws to deal with increasing levels of retail crime, including the use of knives and weapons, and will continue its engagement with the NSW Government.

"We welcome Premier Chris Minns' progress on this important issue and strongly support NSW Police being provided with powers to wand people for weapons in shopping centres and other crowded places," Angus Nardi, Chief Executive of the SCCA said.

"However, we are keen for the Government to provide us with clarity on a number of provisions, including those which differ from Queensland's *Jack's Law*. This includes issues such as what constitutes a 'knife crime' or 'knife possession offences' in the prior 12-month timeframe, which is a key enabler of these powers, along with notification requirements and proposed timeframes of 'authority'.

"We have successfully engaged with the Queensland Government over a long period of time on law reform, including the recent expansion of *Jack's Law* and new laws to prohibit the sale of knives to people under 18.

"We look forward to engagement from the NSW Government to ensure these laws, if passed can be as effective as possible," Mr Nardi said.

The SCCA has also welcomed additional legislation similar to Queensland, making it illegal to sell knives to people under the age of 18, including increasing penalties for people who are found selling knives to young people under 18 years of age.

"This is a sensible measure to tackle rising incidents of retail crime committed by young people with the use of weapons across a range of settings. We are working closely with the National Retail Association on the roll-out of this similar law in Queensland" Mr Nardi said.

**CONTACT:** Luke Sikora, Head of Stakeholder Engagement, SCCA, 0423 437 166