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MEDIA RELEASE

NEW SA KNIFE CRIME POWERS WELCOMED BY SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

The shopping centre industry has welcomed new South Australian knife-crime powers commencing today, which seek to combat knife crime and better protect the community.

The new powers will enable South Australia Police to conduct metal detector searches at a wider range of locations, including shopping centres along with public transport hubs (some of which are located at shopping centres). Such searches can be conducted once a declaration is made by the Police Commissioner.

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia (SCCA) welcomed the new powers as a further step to address knife-crime, which can include the use of dangerous knives by certain people to threaten, intimidate and cause serious harm to people including at shopping centres and other retail settings.

Angus Nardi, Chief Executive of the SCCA said: "Our industry welcomes today's commencement of new SA Police powers as an effective measure to combat knife crime and better protect the community."

"Any proposal which seeks to remove dangerous weapons from people that may seek to threaten, intimidate or cause serious harm to the community is welcome."

"We commend Premier Malinauskas, Attorney General Kyam Maher and Police Minister Stephen Mullighan on the Government's knife-crime package, which also includes proposed measures on the safe storage of knives in retail premises and to limit the sale of knives to minors."

"Our industry looks forward to continuing to engage and partner with the Government on its knife-crime package and other important public policy issues that help ensure community safety."

"We thank SA Police for their service to the community and also extend our appreciation for their ongoing engagement."

The SCCA is the national industry group for major shopping centre owner and operators. This includes the owners and operators of major SA shopping centres.

