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MEDIA RELEASE

RETAIL PARKING CONCESSIONS SENSIBLE: FURTHER CONSIDERATION NEEDED

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia (SCCA) has acknowledged the introduction of the *State Taxation Further Amendment Bill 2025* by the Victorian Government, which includes changes to the Congestion Levy.

The Government has announced a 50% concession (subject to certain terms and conditions) for retail parking spaces across the 'Category 2' congestion levy area, and has also carved out Victoria Gardens shopping centre from the levy's application. The Government is also moving the Queen Victoria Market from the 'Category 1' levy area to the 'Category 2' area.

The SCCA has worked closely with the Treasurer and Government on this issue over several months, and thanks the Government for their constructive engagement that has brought the proposed concessions about.

The SCCA has provided detailed analysis, modelling and costings to the Government on relevant car parking, cost of living and retail market issues, including proposing a full exemption from the congestion levy in the Category 2 area; similar to an exemption for retail parking spaces in the 'equivalent' area (e.g. Bondi Junction, Chatswood, Parramatta) under the NSW parking levy scheme.

Quotes attributable to Angus Nardi, Chief Executive of the SCCA:

"We thank the Victorian Government for their engagement with our industry over several months, and for proposing sensible concessions and carve-outs for certain retail parking spaces," Mr Nardi said.

"Shopping centre and retail parking spaces are completely different to other types of parking spaces, including being short-stay and high-turnover for retail customers; along with there being a close link with cost-of-living issues to buy groceries and essentials.

"We are pleased that the Government has acknowledged the unique role of retail parking spaces.

"We will continue to seek further improvements on the Bill and retail parking space concessions, to ensure positive outcomes for retail customers and businesses, and look forward to further discussions with the Government and other stakeholders."

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia is the leading voice for shopping centre owners across Australia.

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