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MEDIA RELEASE

SHOPPING CENTRE COUNCIL WELCOMES NSW RETAIL CRIME STRATEGY AND OPERATION PERCENTILE ROLLOUT

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia (SCCA) has welcomed the launch of the NSW Government's new Retail Crime Strategy, and the statewide rollout of Operation Percentile, a proven police initiative targeting repeat and high-harm offenders in retail settings.

The strategy, announced by Ministers Yasmin Catley and Sophie Cotsis, sets out a comprehensive and intelligence-led approach to tackling serious retail crime and protecting retail workers, customers, and precincts.

The strategy delivers a much-needed boost to retail crime prevention efforts and reflects the strong collaboration between industry and government.

Angus Nardi, Chief Executive of the SCCA said: "The shopping centre industry strongly supports the NSW Government's new Retail Crime Strategy.

"Any intimidating or violent act that causes harm to any person in a shopping centre, is one too many – whether this be a retail worker, security guard, a cleaner or member of the public.

"It simply has to stop.

"It is particularly pleasing that the Strategy has a strong focus on repeat and high-harm offenders, and also sends a strong signal that aggression, violence and intimidation in retail settings will not be tolerated.

"Our industry thanks the NSW Government for their engagement, and we look forward to partnering further with the Government, NSW Police and other stakeholders to ensure community safety in shopping centres and other retail settings.

Mr Nardi also acknowledged the strategy's focus on safer precincts through design and education, including Retail Safety Packs and Safer by Design site assessments, delivered by local police and complemented by high-visibility policing operations, including knife scanning operations.

Crime Stoppers Australia (CSA) and the SCCA recently partnered in a \$5 million national awareness campaign to encourage Australians to be vigilant and speak up about crime or suspicious activity. SCCA members ran the campaign advertisements for free across more than 125 shopping centres.

The SCCA will continue to work with the NSW Government, NSW Police and other stakeholders to support the strategy's rollout and to share best practice approaches with other jurisdictions across Australia.

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

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