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MEDIA RELEASE

SCCA WELCOMES TARGETED VICTORIA POLICE OPERATION AT SHOPPING CENTRES, INCLUDING PROTECTIVE SERVICES OFFICERS (PSOs)

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia (SCCA) has welcomed the Victorian Government's announcement today that a 90-day targeted Policing operation will be conducted at shopping centres, commencing in December, where Protective Services Officers (PSOs) will join forces with police officers.

The SCCA has engaged on the issue of PSO deployment to shopping centres and strongly supports local, visible Policing, and acknowledges the work undertaken by the Victorian Government and Victoria Police to bring PSO deployment to an operational phase and commitment, including as part of the restructure of Victoria Police announced recently by the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police, Mike Bush CNZM.

Today's announcement complements other recent positive announcements by the Victorian Government to address community safety and violent crime, and to prioritise victims and workers, including this week's announcement by Premier Jacinta Allan on proposed tough new worker assault and vehicle ram-raid laws, which were tabled into the Parliament on 14 November 2025.

Angus Nardi, Chief Executive of the SCCA said: "We strongly welcome the Victorian Government's announcement to support Victoria Police conducting a targeted policing operation at shopping centres, where Protective Services Officers (PSOs) will join forces with police officers", said Mr Nardi.

"We strongly support a well-resourced and visible Police presence in shopping centres to both deter and respond to crime".

"The targeted policing operation is incredibly well timed to occur across the busy Christmas trading period, as shopping centres get more crowded with families and children, particularly as we head into the school-holiday period".

"The Government's additional funding to procure more hand-held metal detectors to enhance the capability of frontline police officers to conduct searches for dangerous weapons, will also be a significant boost to community safety and crime prevention", said Mr Nardi.

"We acknowledge the work that has been undertaken to bring PSO deployment to shopping centres to an operational phase and commitment, a part of the active PSO program designed by Victoria Police".

"Our industry commends Police Minister, Anthony Carbines, and the Chief Commissioner, Mike Bush CNZM, for their engagement with our industry, and we look forward to working with Victoria Police to help ensure the operation is a success, and has a material impact on detecting and deterring crime".

"We thank Victoria Police for the incredibly important and challenging work that they do in keeping the community safe and helping to protect law and order."

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

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