

17 November 2025

MEDIA RELEASE

SCCA WELCOMES VICTORIAN OPPOSITION'S 'RETAIL CRIME CRACKDOWN' ANNOUNCEMENT

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia (SCCA) has welcomed the Victorian Opposition's 'Retail Crime Crackdown' announcement, which is centred on protecting the community and workers from acts of violence and crime, and ensuring community safety across shopping centres and other retail settings.

Measures announced by the Victorian Opposition include:

1. The deployment of Protective Services Officer (PSO) 'Strike Teams' to high-risk shopping centres and retail precincts;
2. The introduction of 'Jack's Law', enabling knife-wandering and detection operations – including giving PSOs the authority to remove knives and machetes;
3. The introduction of Workplace Protection Orders (WPOs) to ban abusive and violent offenders from shopping centres and retail stores;
4. New offences and penalties for assaulting, threatening and harassing customer-facing workers; and
5. A dedicated digital platform for reporting abuse and crime and applying for WPOs directly through Victoria Police systems.

Angus Nardi, Chief Executive of the SCCA said: "We welcome the Victorian Opposition's 'Retail Crime Crackdown' announcement and its strong basis in protecting the community and workers from acts of violence and crime, and ensuring community safety across shopping centres," Mr Nardi said.

"We strongly support the recognition by the Opposition of the challenges of violence and crime in shopping centres and other retail settings, and the Opposition's proposed targeted measures."

"Any measure that targets reducing violence and crime at shopping centres is strongly welcomed."

"We have always strongly supported a well-resourced and visible Police presence at shopping centres to deter and respond to crime."

"We look forward to working with the Leader of the Opposition, Brad Battin and Shadow Minister for Police, David Southwick on further on relevant community safety issues," said Mr Nardi.

"We acknowledge and 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.

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