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MEDIA RELEASE

SCCA WELCOMES COMMENCEMENT OF TARGETED VICTORIA POLICE OPERATION AT SHOPPING CENTRES

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia (SCCA) has welcomed today's commencement of Operation Pulse, a 90-day targeted Victoria Police operation, where Protective Service Officers (PSOs) and Police will be deployed to conduct high-visibility operations to deter and respond to crime, provide community assurance and help ensure community safety at shopping centres.

From today, Operation Pulse will commence at Highpoint Shopping Centre, Northland Shopping Centre, Westfield Fountain Gate, and Eastland Shopping Centre, adding an extra layer of reassurance for the community as the busy 2025 Christmas trading period ramps up.

The SCCA has engaged closely with the Victorian Government and Victoria Police to support the successful implementation of Operation Pulse.

Operation Pulse complements other recent positive announcements by the Victorian Government to address community safety and recent increases in violent crime, and to prioritise victims and workers, including through the legislative amendments to implement higher penalties for assaulting retail and shopping centre workers, and committing vehicle 'ram raids'.

Angus Nardi, Chief Executive of the SCCA said: "We strongly welcome Victoria Police's commencement of Operation Pulse, which will see high-visibility policing operations at shopping centres across the busy Christmas trading and holiday period", said Mr Nardi.

"Victoria Police having wandering powers to detect and remove dangerous weapons will also be a major boost for community assurance and safety"

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

"Shopping centres are safe places, and the increased Police presence and visibility will provide community assurance and help ensure community safety after recent increases in criminal incidents".

"As the busy Christmas trading period hits full-swing, and school holidays approach, shopping centres will be crowded with families and children".

"We commend the Victorian Government and Victoria Police, for their engagement with our industry, and we look forward to supporting Victoria Police to help ensure the operation is a success".

"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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