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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **SCCA WELCOMES VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO COMBAT ILLICIT TOBACCO, INCLUDING LEASE TERMINATION POWERS**

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia (SCCA) has welcomed the Victorian Government's announcement that it will introduce new legislation to strengthen enforcement against the sale of illicit tobacco, including closure orders and new powers to enable landlords to terminate the leases of operators found to be engaging in unlawful activity.

The new legislative powers represent a significant and necessary step forward in tackling the growing problem of illicit tobacco.

**Angus Nardi, Chief Executive of the SCCA said:** "Our industry welcomes the Victorian Government's announcement that it will introduce new legislation and powers to crack down on illicit tobacco operators", said Mr Nardi.

"Closure orders, combined with legislated lease termination rights, have proven to be an effective tool in shutting down illegal tobacco stores, and also support law-abiding and legitimate operators".

"Our industry has developed a model legislative framework for lease termination, which is proving to be strong, clear and effective in other jurisdictions where it has been adopted".

"The Government's proposed reforms will make a real difference on the ground," said Mr Nardi.

"We appreciate the engagement from Minister Erdogan, the Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, and look forward to working with the Government to develop a strong and effective legislative framework", said Mr Nardi.

The SCCA will continue to engage with governments nationally to ensure effective, and practical approaches to eliminating illegal tobacco.

*The SCCA is the national industry group for major shopping centre owner and operators.*

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