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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **SCCA WELCOMES STRONG COMMUNITY SAFETY RESULTS FROM OPERATION PULSE CRACKDOWN**

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia (SCCA) has welcomed the latest results from Victoria Police's *Operation Pulse*, including more than 1,000 arrests and over 2,000 charges laid, which clearly demonstrates the strong community safety benefits of the Operation across Melbourne's suburban shopping centres.

*Operation Pulse*, a high-visibility policing operation targeting retail theft, anti-social behaviour and violent incidents, has proven highly effective in improving safety for retailers, workers and the community.

**Angus Nardi, SCCA Chief Executive said:** "The latest results for Victoria Police's *Operation Pulse* prove once again that it's been a massive success in addressing community safety, backed by an intelligence-led, targeted and coordinate response to retail crime."

"The shopping centres covered by *Operation Pulse* have hundreds of thousands of customer visits every single day, and the operation has given small businesses, customers and workers massive assurance and confidence."

"More than 1,000 arrests in just a few-months demonstrates the scale of enforcement and the clear message that criminal behaviour will not be tolerated in our shopping centres."

"By focusing resources in locations with consistently high customer traffic, Victoria Police and PSOs are able to deter offending at scale, respond rapidly to incidents, and engage directly with both retailers and the community."

"Operation Pulse not only disrupts criminal activity in real time, but also maximises preventative outcomes, identifying repeat offenders, and reinforcing a strong sense of safety and reassurance for workers and customers alike."

Mr Nardi said the results build on the strong outcomes already identified by the SCCA and its members, including a **73% reduction in retail theft and a 50% reduction in aggressive and violent incidents** across participating centres.

"Feedback from the community has also been overwhelmingly positive, with more than **80% of customers and retailers consistently reporting that they feel safer with a visible police presence.**"

Mr Nardi said Operation Pulse demonstrates the value of close collaboration between industry, law enforcement and government.

"This operation is a clear example of what can be achieved through strong partnerships. The SCCA and our members have worked closely with Victoria Police and the Victorian Government to support a coordinated and evidence-based approach to tackling retail crime."

"We commend Victoria Police and PSOs for their professionalism and dedication, and we look forward to continuing to work together to strengthen community safety."

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

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