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MEDIA RELEASE

SCCA WELCOMES PERMANENT NSW KNIFE WANDING POWERS

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia (SCCA) has welcomed the NSW Government's announcement to make knife-wanding powers permanent for NSW Police, describing the move as an important step in improving community safety and supporting the efforts of frontline Police.

The legislation announced today will make permanent the police powers introduced on a trial basis in 2024, allowing NSW Police officers to use handheld metal-detecting scanners in designated areas, including shopping centres, to detect and seize knives and other dangerous weapons. The legislation also responds to a recommendation by the NSW State Coroner, Magistrate Teresa O'Sullivan, on the Westfield Bondi Junction Inquest, handed down on 5 February 2026.

The reforms will also expand the locations where these operations can occur, including major entertainment venues, and extend the duration of designated area declarations from 12 hours to 24 hours.

Angus Nardi, Chief Executive of the SCCA said: "We strongly welcome the NSW Government's decision to make knife-wanding powers permanent, providing NSW Police with important powers to help keep our communities safe."

"These powers have proven effective in removing dangerous weapons from crowded places, such as shopping centres, and their continuation will help ensure places such as shopping centres remain safe and welcoming destinations for the millions of people who visit them every week."

"The statistics released by the NSW Government demonstrate these powers are helping NSW Police remove dangerous weapons from crowded places and provide an additional tool to deter violent behaviour."

"We strongly support the NSW Government's leadership on addressing crime in retail settings, including with their launch of the *NSW Retail Crime Strategy* in October last year, which included the Statewide roll-out of Operation Percentile, a proven Police initiative targeting repeat and high-harm offenders."

"Our industry thanks the NSW Government and NSW Police for their productive engagement and collaboration."

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

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

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