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MEDIA RELEASE

SHOPPING CENTRE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA WELCOMES TASMANIA'S NEW ILLICIT TOBACCO LAWS

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia (SCCA) has welcomed the commencement of Tasmania's *Public Health Amendment (Prohibited Tobacco and Other Products) Act 2026*, which came into effect this week, describing the reforms as an important first step in protecting communities, legitimate businesses and retail workers.

From 22 July 2026 the new illicit tobacco laws come into effect and introduces new offences and tougher penalties for the sale and supply of illicit tobacco and vaping products.

The laws also empower the Department of Health to order the closure of businesses operating illegally, ban the sale of smoking products from vending machines, prohibit the retail display of smoking paraphernalia, and strengthen enforcement powers for offences such as obstructing authorised officers and selling smoking products to minors.

Angus Nardi, Chief Executive of the SCCA said: "While these new laws represent a welcome and important first step, there is more work to do to disrupt the illegal tobacco trade," Mr Nardi said.

"Experience in other jurisdictions has shown that strong enforcement is more effective when landlords have clear legislative powers to terminate leases where tenants are engaged in the illegal sale of tobacco products. Providing permanent lease termination powers would ensure illicit tobacco operators cannot simply reopen after enforcement action, helping to protect legitimate retailers, improve community safety and further dismantle the illicit tobacco market."

The SCCA has worked closely with police agencies and governments across Australia to advocate for stronger legislative frameworks that enable landlords to take action against the illegal sale of tobacco from retail premises.

"Across multiple jurisdictions, we have worked with governments and police to implement strong laws that empower landlords to address the illegal sale of tobacco from shopping centres and other retail properties," Mr Nardi said.

"We are continuing to work constructively with the Tasmanian Government as these reforms take effect. The commencement of these laws on 22 July marks another significant milestone in the national effort to disrupt the illegal tobacco market and protect legitimate retailers."

The SCCA said the new laws build on reforms introduced in other jurisdictions and reflect a growing national commitment to disrupting organised crime, supporting law enforcement agencies and ensuring shopping centres remain safe places for businesses, workers and customers.

"Strong enforcement powers, backed by close collaboration between governments, police and industry, are critical to driving organised crime out of our retail communities," Mr Nardi said.

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

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