

28 August 2026

MEDIA RELEASE

SCCA WELCOMES SENATE REPORT INTO ILLEGAL TOBACCO: OPPORTUNITY FOR HARMONISED ENFORCEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia (SCCA) has welcomed the release of the *Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee's* report tabled today into Australia's illegal tobacco crisis, including a key recommendation that there should be a nationally harmonised illicit tobacco enforcement framework including nationally consistent licensing obligations and retail compliance arrangements..

The SCCA made a submission and appeared before the Senate Committee at a public hearing, drawing on its experience working with governments, regulators and law enforcement on closure-order powers and legal rights for landlords to terminate the leases of illegal tobacco operators.

Angus Nardi, Chief Executive of the SCCA, said: "We welcome the Senate Committee's report into Australia's illegal tobacco crisis and the important focus it brings to tackling this growing community problem."

"The illegal tobacco trade is having a significant impact on community safety, legitimate businesses and the retail sector, and today's report endorses the need for strong and coordinated action."

The SCCA particularly welcomes **Recommendation 8**, which calls for a nationally harmonised illicit tobacco enforcement framework, including nationally consistent licensing obligations, penalties and retail compliance arrangements.

"The Senate Committee's recommendation for a nationally harmonised enforcement framework is strongly welcome, and we hope that the Government endorses this, as a national response cannot work effectively if illegal tobacco operators can exploit differences between state and territory laws," Mr Nardi said.

"At a time that the Federal Government has a renewed focus on retail lease harmonisation, under its Productivity Package, a harmonised approach to illicit tobacco closure orders and lease termination powers makes complete sense; and Queensland Government's approach is the gold-standard that all States should follow."

"The SCCA specifically recommended in its submission that the Commonwealth encourage all jurisdictions to adopt effective closure-order legislation, modelled on the approaches developed in Queensland and New South Wales, including an express right for landlords to terminate the lease of an operator subject to a closure order."

"We look forward to working constructively with the Commonwealth and state and territory governments to ensure the report's recommendations help deliver a stronger, more coordinated response to the illegal tobacco trade."

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

CONTACT: Luke Sikora, Head of Stakeholder Engagement, SCCA, 0423 437 166