SHOPPING CENTRE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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MEDIA RELEASE

SCCA WELCOMES VICTORIAN OPPOSITION'S ELECTION COMMITMENT TO CRACKDOWN ON ILLICIT TOBACCO

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia (SCCA) has welcomed today's election commitment by Victorian Opposition Leader, Jess Wilson, to introduce stronger powers to crackdown on premises found to be involved in the sale of illegal tobacco.

Under the current legislation, landlords do not have an express right to terminate leases when a short-term closure order is issued on an illegally operating premises (unlike in other jurisdictions such as Queensland). A lease can only be terminated when a long-term closure order is issued.

The SCCA helped develop the Queensland Government's illicit tobacco legislation in relation to closure orders and lease termination powers. In early October 2026, the Federal Government praised the Queensland Government's approach to addressing illicit tobacco, including their strong "landlord enforcement powers". A recent Senate Committee report into Australia's illegal tobacco crisis recommended a nationally harmonised approach to illicit tobacco enforcement.

Angus Nardi, Chief Executive of the SCCA said: "The Shopping Centre Council of Australia welcomes Opposition Leader Jess Wilson's election commitment to introduce stronger powers to crackdown on the illegal tobacco trade".

"Giving landlords the express power to terminate leases when a short-term closure order is issued will ensure a swifter and more effective crackdown on illegal premises".

"This approach works incredibly effectively in Queensland, and NSW, and is a key reason why enforcement activity has been swift and strong in those jurisdictions".

"Today's announcement is an important step in further tackling organised criminal activity and protecting legitimate retailers and their workers".

"Our industry has consistently engaged in and supported stronger regulatory, compliance and enforcement measures to crackdown on illicit tobacco premises".

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

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