

## Media Release

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### SHOPPING CENTRES WELCOME BOXING DAY COMMITMENT

The Baird Government's election commitment to reform outdated Boxing Day shop trading restrictions will provide a major benefit to business flexibility, consumers and the economy, according to the Executive Director of the Shopping Centre Council of Australia (SCCA), Angus Nardi.

"Treasurer Constance's announcement today is fantastic news for consumers, jobs and the economy", said Mr Nardi.

"The current Boxing Day restrictions on major retailers means that shopping centres can't justify opening their doors on a day that is known for being a great day for shopping".

"The current restrictions are out-dated and not in line with consumer preferences. Consumer choice, not government regulation, should decide when shops can open".

"Our member companies who open across other major cities on Boxing Day, such as Melbourne and Perth, tell us that consumers vote with their feet and keep coming through the doors".

"While the Government's commitment applies state-wide, easing the restrictions across Sydney's major centres alone would see the end of the artificial barriers which enable people to access all shops in Bondi Junction, but not in Blacktown, Parramatta, Chatswood or Rouse Hill."

Mr Nardi also noted that other centres and communities identified in the Government's *A Plan for Growing Sydney* (released in December 2014) would benefit from the proposed changes, including Bankstown, Burwood, Campbelltown/Macarthur, Castle Hill, Hurstville, Macquarie Park and Liverpool.

"The Government has identified these centres as the priority hubs for retail development, investment and job creation in order deliver sustainable growth and maximise productivity. This announcement is entirely consistent with this objective", said Mr Nardi.

"Across Sydney's major centres alone, we estimate there's around 1.1 million square metres of retail floor space – equivalent to over 150 football fields – that isn't being utilised on Boxing Day".

"Easing the restrictions across these locations could enable the opening of over 110 major retailers and 3,800 specialty retailers, including over 300 food outlets and cafes, across a number of shopping centres".

"This would also enable residents and consumers to shop closer to home, enjoy the benefit of Boxing Day sales, and also provide local employment and business growth opportunities."

"Importantly, retailers cannot be forced to trade if they don't want to".

\*SCCA members have shopping centres that would be able to trade if current Boxing Day restrictions were lifted. Our members are: AMP Capital Investors, Blackstone Group, Brookfield Office Properties, Charter Hall Retail REIT, DEXUS Property Group, Eureka Funds Management, Federation Centres, GPT Group, Ipoh Management Services, ISPT, Jen Retail Properties, JLL, Lancini Group, Lend Lease, McConaghy Group, McConaghy Properties, Mirvac, Novion Property Group, Perron Group, Precision Group, QIC, Savills, SCA Property Group, Scentre Group (owner and manager of Westfield shopping centres in Australia and New Zealand) and Stockland.

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