

13 APRIL 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

Shopping Centre Council welcomes NSW Government's land tax relief package and commitment to a united effort between landlords and tenants

13 April, 2020

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia today welcomed the NSW Government's \$440m land tax relief package which will assist in the provision of support to retail tenants experiencing hardship in NSW as a consequence of COVID-19.

SCCA Executive Director Angus Nardi said: "We commend the NSW Government on this package, and it is welcome news for shopping centres and retailers.

"We welcome Treasurer Perrottet's and Minister Tudehope's comments that this package is about landlords and tenants having a united effort and providing a way forward to reach an agreement during this difficult COVID-19 period".

"The NSW Government's announcement today sends a strong signal that SME retailers can sit down with their landlords to discuss rent relief and business continuity with confidence," Mr Nardi said.

The NSW Government has said it will give effect to the Code of Conduct including that there will be a ban on the termination of a lease for the non-payment of rent.

On 26 March the Shopping Centre Council and its members announced that no SME or family retailer in its members' shopping centres would face a termination of their lease as a result of financial hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We look forward to working with the NSW Government on the implementation of this package and the new Code of Conduct".

"As we move through this difficult period, the shopping centre industry is working hard to ensure important public health requirements are followed including social distancing measures".

The Shopping Centre Council continues to work closely with the National Retail Association, Australian Retailers Association and Pharmacy Guild of Australia in relation to national retail leasing and industry issues, and will continue to engage with all state governments in relation to regulation on the new Code of Conduct.

<ends>

CONTACT:

Angus Nardi, Executive Director, SCCA, 0408 079 184
Media Contact: Ben Wilson, GRACosway: 0407 966 083