

11 JUNE 2020

MEDIA STATEMENT

RE: NSW - Food court reopening

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia (SCCA) today welcomed the New South Wales Government's considered decision to reopen shopping centre food courts to a limited number of people from Saturday (13 June) marking another important milestone on the road to recovery in a COVIDSafe economy.

Guided by the latest health advice, food courts will now be able to accommodate up to 50 people seated per separate eating area at any one time, contingent on the ability to meet the 4 square metre rule and 1.5m physical distancing requirement

SCCA members will also apply a new *COVID-19 Safety Plan and Protocol for Shopping Centre Food Courts* released today to ensure a clean, hygienic and safe food court environment for all stakeholders.

This new Food Court Safety Plan and Protocol supports comprehensive measures already in place across the nation's shopping centres as part of an industry Retail Recovery Protocol, which was publicly released on 1 May, including making hand sanitiser readily available, the encouragement of physical distancing measures and frequent cleaning of hard services.

Angus Nardi, SCCA Executive Director said: "Today's decision to re-open NSW foodcourts from Saturday is a welcome step for business owners, employees and customers who are feeling more confident to go about their daily activities including visiting shopping centres and food courts."

"We welcome the Government's commitment to getting people back into jobs safely, and our industry is committed to providing clean and safe environments in line with necessary public health guidelines, and working closely with food retailers to boost trade and economic activity".

"We ask customers to be patient and apply commonsense when they visit food courts from Saturday as the practising of physical distancing is a shared responsibility".

There are more than 400 food courts within Australian shopping centres, and the national average shopping centre food court has around 11 food outlets and 330 seats.

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Attachment: COVID-19 Safety Plan and Protocol – Shopping Centre Food Courts