

Expanding Adult Time, Adult Crime and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026

Submission No: 172

Submission By: Shopping Centre Council of Australia

Publication: Making the submission and your name public

18 March 2026

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Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia (SCCA) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026 (the Bill).

Background

The SCCA strongly supports measures that ensure penalties for serious offences are aligned to community expectation, and measures that provide police with the powers they need to protect communities and businesses from violent and antisocial behaviour.

For context, the SCCA has engaged with and supported the Queensland Government on its efforts to combat violent and antisocial crime and ensure that repeat and youth offenders receive appropriate penalties. This has included close engagement on the introduction and expansion of 'Jack's Law', the development of lease termination powers in respect of illicit tobacco closure orders, ongoing engagement with the Knife Crime Prevention Team within the Queensland Police Service in respect of sale and storage requirements for edged weapons, and welcoming the introduction of *Adult Crime, Adult Time* offences.

We are also grateful for the support of senior members of the Queensland Government, including the Premier and Deputy Premier, who have joined with the SCCA in launching our 'Be Kind in Retail' campaign in 2024 and 2025, which emphasises the importance of respectful behaviour towards all staff in retail settings.

We welcome the introduction of the Bill and provide comment below on two aspects of the Bill that are of particular interest to our members.

Adult Crime, Adult Time

The SCCA supports the expansion of *Adult Crime, Adult Time*, and the Queensland Government's commitment to prioritising the rights and interests of victims of crime and ensuring that there are appropriate consequences for young offenders who commit serious offences.

We note that the Bill expands the offences subject to stronger penalties under the *Adult Crime, Adult Time* framework, including riot, assaults occasioning bodily harm in certain circumstances and unlawful stalking, intimidation, harassment or abuse.

The offences listed above are serious offences that have the potential to cause significant physical harm to victims and mental trauma that can be long-lasting. Many of these offences can also be perpetrated in public places and their inclusion in the *Adult Crime, Adult Time* framework should, in addition to aligning the penalties with community expectation, also serve to deter potential offenders from committing these violent acts.

The SCCA supports the additional offences being added to the *Adult Crime, Adult Time* framework.

Designated Business and Community Precincts

The Bill establishes the concept of 'Designated Business and Community Precincts' in the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* (the PPR Act), which can be designated by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, and confer powers on police to conduct hand held scanning (under the Jack's Law provisions of the PPR Act), require a person to state their name and address, issue move on directions, and issue police banning notices to persons within a Designated Business and Community Precinct.

Designated Business and Community Precincts are intended to empower police to proactively respond to antisocial behaviour that places community safety at risk and causes significant disruption to nearby businesses. The SCCA support this intent.

While the terminology of Designated Business and Community Precincts are new to the PPR Act, the concept is similar to other designated precincts, within which police are granted additional powers to protect community safety, such as ‘Safe Night Precincts’. Prior to the strengthening of Jack’s Law through the *Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack’s Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2025* in 2025, Jack’s Law was implemented in a similar way to the Designated Business and Community Precincts, whereby areas (particularly shopping centres) would be designated for a limited period of time that would enable police to conduct hand held scanning operations.

Since the commencement of the *Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack’s Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2025*, shopping centres are prescribed in the PPR Act for the purposes of Jack’s Law, meaning specific designations are no longer required for police to conduct hand held scanning operations in shopping centres. The SCCA strongly supported these changes.

Interaction Shopping Centres and Designated Business and Community Precincts

In considering the Designated Business and Community Precincts elements of the Bill, the SCCA has considered how Designated Business and Community Precincts may interact with police powers in shopping centres under the PPR Act.

Broadly, the powers available to police within a shopping centre will be similar to those within a Designated Business and Community Precinct. Police powers under Jack’s Law will be identical for a shopping centre and a Designated Business and Community Precinct, and although move on powers are expressly provided within Designated Business and Community Precincts, shopping centres are “public places” under the PPR Act for the purpose of move on orders, so the powers are consistent.

The main difference between police powers in a shopping centre compared to those within a Designated Business and Community Precinct is the ability to issue “Police Banning Notices” under part 5A of the PPR Act. Unless they fall within a safe night precinct, shopping centres are not a “relevant public place” under section 602A of the PPR Act, so the ability of police to issue police banning notices at shopping centres is limited.

We have engaged with the Government on the anticipated operation Business and Community Precincts and how they may impact shopping centres, particularly in respect of the slightly different powers that the Queensland Police Service has available to it.

Through our engagement with the Government, we understand that in practice, where a Designated Business and Community Precinct is established, any nearby shopping centre is likely to be included in it. Accordingly, police would have the ability to exercise the same powers within relevant shopping centres as they can within the Designated Business and Community Precinct.

We believe that Designated Business and Community Precincts are a positive step that will support improved community safety and business continuity outcomes by empowering police to proactively deal with antisocial and disruptive behaviour.

Recommendation

The SCCA supports the Bill and encourages the Committee to recommend that the Bill be passed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Bill. Please do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED] as required.

Angus Nardi

Chief Executive

e. [REDACTED]

m. [REDACTED]