

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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Bulky Goods Retailers Association and NSW Urban Taskforce welcome State initiative – jobs and investment for NSW

The Bulky Goods Retailers Association and the NSW Urban Taskforce have welcomed and endorsed the new definition of bulky goods saying it would create jobs and certainty within the state.

In NSW the bulky goods retail sector accounts for over \$11.8 billion and employs up to 40000 people annually.

Last month, the new definition was officially gazetted in the NSW Standard Instrument (Local Environmental Plans) Order 2006.

“We congratulate the planning minister Frank Sartor and his department for the inclusion of this definition within the LEP,” said BGRA executive director Ms Philippa Kelly. “While it’s too early to understand the full impact, early indications from our members seeking planning approvals in NSW are positive.”

NSW Urban Taskforce executive general manager Ms Sue Robinson said that there would be many benefits to the state. “The introduction of a bulky goods definition creates certainty for the massive bulky goods retail industry and this will in turn create jobs and economic growth,” she said.

BGRA members said the definition allowed for the dynamic nature of bulky goods retailing and the continued growth of the sector.

“We strongly support the decision to provide a more generic description of what retail activities and products constitute bulky goods because this eliminates uncertainties surrounding the exclusion of some items,” said Ms Kelly.

“Furthermore, the decision to exclude a minimum floor space for tenants is fundamental because genuine bulky goods tenants often have varying space requirements and any limit would be purely arbitrary.”

They agreed that the NSW definition should be considered by other Australian states, saying a national approach would provide certainty to investors, developers and the retailers themselves, encouraging further investment into and growth of the sector.

However BGRA member's noted that while the definition represented positive progress by the state government, the Association would continue its consultation with government in an effort to seek the inclusion of bulky goods premises within zoning definitions.

"While the LEP does not explicitly prohibit bulky goods retailing in specific zones, it does not name our retail format in applicable zones either, creating confusion and inconsistency in councils' approach to the development of bulky goods retail premises," said Ms Kelly. "We are now looking at ways to work with councils to seek appropriate identification of the permissibility of bulky goods retailing in specific zones."

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