



MEDIA RELEASE

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Victorian Government Applauded for Changes to Retail Planning Laws

The Bulky Goods Retailers Association (BGRA) today congratulated the Baillieu Government on sweeping reforms to Victoria's retail planning regime affecting large format retailers.

The reforms, endorsed by the recently released Productivity Commission's final report from their inquiry into the *"Economic Structure and Performance of the Australian Retail Industry"* is a significant step in the freeing up of the complex and anti-competitive planning laws which retailers have had to endure.

BGRA Executive Director, Philippa Kelly said that "the changes announced today by the Victorian Planning Minister, the Hon Matthew Guy, will allow large format retailers to have the capacity to open stores with an expanded and clarified range of products. It will mean retailers will no longer be inhibited in opening stores less than 1,000 square metres."

"With the Victorian Government also removing previous Labor Government's proposed prohibition of bulky goods retailers on industrial land it means that retailers trading on industrial land such as Hoppers Crossing and Dandenong South will be able to continue to do so with certainty. Additionally, new development opportunities will now open up." Kelly added.

BGRA President, Ian Robinson hailed "the changes as a catalyst for the introduction of more exciting and innovative homemaker and bulky goods centres".

The changes will assist bricks and mortar retailers being able to better compete with online retailers. Ultimately, the customer will be better off in terms improved stores and increased competition. Victoria is now leading Australia in terms of retail planning for large format retailers", Robinson added.

Ms Kelly stated that "over 20% of Australian retail sales are of "bulky goods", making it second only to the food sector in the retail economy."

"Directly and indirectly, the bulky goods industry currently employs more than 391,000 people nationally and 96,000 specifically in Victoria.

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PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS



“We form a very significant part of the retail landscape, with more than 30% of all retail floor space dedicated to the sale of bulky goods”.

The changes announced will see hundreds of millions of dollars invested in Victoria and creation thousands of new jobs over time.”

The BGRA is the national peak industry association whose primary focus is on issues relating to appropriate planning and responsible development of bulky goods retailing outlets. Retail members of the BGRA consists of some of Australia’s largest and most respected bulky goods retailers, developers, owners, agents and service suppliers.

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