20 July 2009

Ms Alexandra Douglas
Executive Officer
Road Safety Committee
Parliament of Victoria
Parliament House
Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Ms Douglas

Inquiry into pedestrian safety in car parks

I refer to the above inquiry and to the Committee’s requests for information from some of our member companies in relation to pedestrian safety in shopping centre car parks.

Our members will be responding directly to the Committee with any data they have on the number of accidents involving pedestrians in their shopping centres. However, as the industry association representing shopping centre owners and managers we would like to take this opportunity to make a few general points regarding shopping centre car parks.

We understand, where reported, that the number of pedestrian accidents is not large, particularly given the high turnover of parking spaces, and are rarely serious in terms of personal injury. As the Committee would know, most accidents involving pedestrians occur in suburban shopping strips. By contrast, shopping centre car parks offer a much safer and more controlled environment for pedestrians, with boom gates, speed humps and other traffic calming measures. The car parks are also generally well lit and well signposted.

Shopping centre owners make every effort to ensure the environment for their customers is as safe as possible and are guided by Australian Standards, the Road Traffic Authority and local councils in designing and operating their car parks. There are usually restricted speed areas and other safety measures recommended by Australian Standards such as speed humps and line markings. Local councils and the Road Traffic Authority are usually involved in the design or redesign of shopping centre car parks through the development control process and pedestrian safety is obviously a major consideration, along with traffic flow and so on. Shopping centres also roster extra staff during peak periods such as Christmas to minimise the likelihood of accidents.

In these circumstances, there would not appear to be any need for any further regulation of shopping centre car parks.

For your information, the members of the Shopping Centre Council of Australia are: AMP Capital Investors, Brookfield Multiplex, Centro Properties Group, Colonial First State Property, Dexus Group, Eureka Funds Management, GPT Group, ISPT, Jan Retail Properties, Jones Lang LaSalle, Lend Lease Retail, Macquarie CountryWide Trust, McConaghy Group, McConaghy Properties, Mirvac, Perron Group, Precision Group, QIC, Savills, Stockland, and Westfield Group.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Milton Cockburn
Executive Director