



**Anthony Roberts MP**

Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing, Special Minister of State



## FOREWORD

Soon after I became Minister for Planning in 2017, it was clear the Large Format Retail sector needed reform.

Its health was out-growing its regulation and the Retail Expert Advisory Committee (REAC) independent report confirmed it.

So in late 2017, I asked my department to commence work on implementing the report's recommendations, which were:

1. Develop a State-wide Retail Planning Policy
2. Strategic Plans must identify retail supply and demand and articulate objectives
3. Amend the standard instrument local environmental plan
4. Improve clarity and consistency in assessment processes
5. Provide clear planning guidance

In April, we asked you about potential amendments to the Standard Instrument Local Environmental Plan (SILEP). The proposal aimed to improve planning for retail formats in NSW and we delivered the following new and amended land use definitions: a new definition for 'artisan food and drink premises' an amended definition for 'garden centre' a new definition for 'local distribution premises' a new definition for 'neighbourhood supermarket' an amended definition for 'bulky goods premises', to be known as 'specialised retail premises'.

Since then we have amended the standard instrument, updated planning instruments to include these new and amended terms and provided planning guidance on each definition. We wanted the definitions to catch up to your modern sector and be fit for future purpose.

My department is currently working on the other REAC recommendations, including working with Councils to improve clarity and consistency in assessment processes.

Also in April, we released Planning for the Future of Retail: Discussion Paper. Many of the submissions received were from the LFR sector, showing how passionate the industry is about reform.

Next year we will finalise the State-wide retail planning policy and provide advice to councils on how to consider retail supply and demand as part of their local strategic plans.

I applaud the LFRA for its strong advocacy for its members and stewardship of a growing sector. Your industry is vital to the NSW economy's strength, with \$1 in every \$4 in retail being spent in your sector.

I commend to you the 2019, 10th anniversary edition of the Australian and New Zealand Large Format Retail Directory.

Yours sincerely,

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