

61,400 retail jobs boom awaiting change of NSW Government policy

An extra 61,400 jobs would be added to the NSW economy in the next seven (7) years by large format retailers if restrictive planning laws are overhauled by the State Government.

The Large Format Retail Association (LFRA) CEO, Philippa Kelly, today said the industry would be able to deliver an employment boom to NSW under a more favourable policy environment.

“The Large Format Retail sector is being held back in NSW by confusing and restrictive planning laws,” said Mrs Kelly.

“Unfortunately, in NSW there is no clear definition of the sector in legislation unlike other states like Victoria, South Australia or Western Australia which all boast a flourishing sector and competitive advantage.

“Despite projections of Sydney needing another 725,000 homes by 2036, there is not enough land being dedicated to the sector which would be able to provide a these necessary jobs.”

Mrs Kelly said the sector comprised 30 per cent of all retail space.

“Despite this, we have not even rated a mention from the Greater Sydney Commission in its draft District Plans,” she added.

“With some simple tweaks to policy, and through proper planning, our economic projections show that by 2025 Large Format Retail would contribute an additional 61,400 jobs to the NSW economy.

“This number would help turbo-charge the NSW economy and there’s not many industries which could match that number without a dollar of government assistance.”

Large Format Retail Association members include the likes of Harvey Norman, IKEA, JB Hi-Fi, Super Retail Group and Beacon Lighting.

The NSW Large Format Retail sector currently occupies more than 6.6 million square metres (m²) of floorspace and provides 142,700 full time equivalent (FTE) direct and in-direct jobs.

The sector hopes to secure 2.74 million m² of additional floorspace by 2025, the equivalent of approximately 20 additional homemaker centres supplying an additional 61,400 FTE direct and in-direct jobs.

Industry stakeholders have recommended that Large Format Retail premises should be permitted in the Zone B6 Enterprise Corridor, Zone B7 Business Park, Zone IN1 General Industrial and Zone IN2 Light Industrial zones.

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