

Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Bill 2023

Submission No: 2
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Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

1 QLD's current enforcement framework relies solely on QLD health inspectors to intervene in the tobacco black market: the bill will still see Health department responsible but enables Queensland Police Service to assist on request – we request immediate action on illicit stores.2 Even when the Police raid stores and seize illicit products with the Australian Federal Police's help, these illicit stores open the next day – how will this change under the new bill?3 Everyone can see now that these illicit stores are taking full advantage of the significant flaws in Queensland's tobacco and nicotine vaping product laws 4 The number of illicit stores operating in QLD are only growing because they know there's no one enforcing the rules – the government need to stop them5 The State Government needs to play significantly stronger role in advocating for reform, including with your federal counterparts who need to resource the Australian Border Force with the resources to stop it coming into the border.6 This can't be the state going alone or the federal government making rules for the states, it has to be a thought through, joint strategy with everyone working together to get rid of illicit tobacco and vapes in this country. 7 Whilst the Bill does propose strict tobacco licencing and tougher penalties for illicit tobacco sales it still doesn't go deep enough into the role QLD Police will have in enforcing the new laws in our views.8 It also doesn't state what is going to be done to stop these illegal operators for the next 18 months until the laws come into effect.