

Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Bill 2023

Submission No: 14
Submitted by: TSG Caloundra and Maroochydore
Publication:
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Whilst the proposed new laws seem to be a positive step in the right direction, we need enforcement of the law and we are critical that existing laws have not been enforced in the past.

Please find below a few points that we would like the government to seriously consider before passing any new laws:-

- 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.
 - 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?
 - The Palaszczuk Government needs to urgently combat this crime surge by ensuring the QLD Police and the Health Department are appropriately resourced to tackle retail enforcement, and offenders are punished with proportionate penalties for offences.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - Illicit tobacco shops are not hard to spot by police, however, without the appropriate mandate from the government, they will not act. Responsibility still sits within Health Department.
 - Retailers need to see more action from this government on exposing illegal operators selling illicit tobacco and vapes. Currently there's little interest from the Police – they've even told retailers as such.
 - 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
 - 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 them.
 - Law-abiding retailers like me, who choose not to deal in black market products are suffering huge downturns as foot traffic drops and consumers purchase illicit tobacco and nicotine vapes from the criminal operators down the road.
 - 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.
 - 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
- Thank you for your time in considering our submission.

Kind regards,
Millan Kumar
Director

TSG Caloundra, Shop 6, Caloundra Shopping Centre, 47 Bowman Rd, Caloundra, 4551, Queensland
and TSG Maroochydore, Shop 33A, Big Top Shopping Centre, 12 Ocean Street, Maroochydore 4558, Queensland