

Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Bill 2023

Submission No: 16
Submitted by: Local Government Association of
Publication: Queensland
Attachments:
Submitter Comments:



31 March 2023

Mr Aaron Harper MP
Chair
Health and Environment Committee
Member for Thuringowa
Via: hec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Chair

Inquiry into the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Bill 2023

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to assist the Health and Environment Committee in their inquiry into the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Bill 2023.

Following the LGAQ comment to the exposure draft provided by Queensland Health, the LGAQ continues to support the objective to decrease the incidence of smoking through the expansion of further smoke-free public places and to respond to the emerging risks of increased smoking rates by strengthening provisions on the supply, advertising, display and promotion of smoking products, including e-cigarettes.

Local government continues to support a consistent approach to smoke-free places and the additional requirements for outdoor eating and drinking spaces and welcomes the additional safeguards for the sale of tobacco products. Similarly, changes to protect children from second-hand smoke and smoking are welcome and supported.

It is acknowledged that the proposed legislative amendments do not introduce any additional compliance responsibilities for councils, and it is expected that these remain strongly within the remit of Queensland Health, as they should.

Local government continues to advocate for flexibility and supports discretionary powers for councils. The LGAQ and its members urge the Committee and the State to ensure the proposed changes to section 26ZG do not put further pressure on local government enforcement and that subsection (2) provides reasonable excuse for councils who host outdoor markets to not be forced to engage additional enforcement personal for these occurrences.

In conclusion, local councils continue to be encouraged by the State Government's ongoing commitment to progress this important agenda and support improved smoking ban regulation for better health outcomes for Queensland communities.

Should you require further assistance in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Rudolf Pretzler, Lead – Public Health and Waste [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

Alison Smith
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER