

Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

Submission No:	1
Submitted by:	
Publication:	Making the submission public but withholding your name
Attachments:	See attachment
Submitter Comments:	

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
22.09.2025

The Committee Secretariat
Health, Environment and Innovation Committee
Parliament House
Cnr George and Alice Streets
Brisbane QLD 4000

Subject: Submission to the Inquiry into the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

Dear Committee Chair,

I write to provide a submission to the Inquiry into the *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025*. This submission draws upon the example of a tobacco shop operating in Kilcoy, Queensland, which illustrates the serious harms posed by the illicit tobacco trade to communities, workers, and legitimate businesses.

Case Study: Kilcoy Tobacco Shop

- **Business practices:** Operates exclusively in cash to avoid accurate revenue reporting; sells vapes, grey-market cigarettes, and illicit smoking paraphernalia; subject to repeated police raids with contraband seized.
- **Employment practices:** The owner has admitted to employing young women under the belief they are less likely to attract police scrutiny, raising concerns of exploitation and unsafe workplaces.
- **Community impact:** Located in a small business centre, the shop undermines safety and trust, particularly for young female staff and neighbouring businesses. It has also been targeted by break-ins, exacerbating risks to staff and property.

Key Issues Identified

1. **Weak deterrents** – Despite raids, the business continues operating, showing current penalties are inadequate.
 2. **Revenue concealment** – Cash-only operations enable tax evasion and under-reporting.
 3. **Workforce exploitation** – Employment practices expose young women to unsafe and unfair conditions.
 4. **Community harm** – The illicit trade diminishes confidence in legitimate retailers and contributes no long-term value to the community.
-

Relevance of the Bill

The *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025* provides an opportunity to address these issues by:

- Granting **enhanced enforcement powers** to prevent repeat offences.
 - Introducing **stricter penalties** to create stronger deterrents.
 - Requiring **digital record-keeping**, limiting cash-based concealment of revenue.
 - Strengthening **community safety measures** by acknowledging the criminal links and protecting vulnerable workers.
-

Recommendations

1. **Prioritise enforcement in regional centres** such as Kilcoy, where illicit operators have a disproportionate impact.
 2. **Mandate digital sales reporting** to limit tax evasion.
 3. **Extend compliance checks to workplace practices** to safeguard vulnerable workers.
 4. **Support community recovery efforts** through engagement with local chambers of commerce and councils.
-

Conclusion

The Kilcoy tobacco shop exemplifies the broader risks and harms associated with illicit tobacco trade. By passing and effectively implementing the proposed Bill, Queensland has the opportunity to protect vulnerable workers, restore trust in business centres, and dismantle illegal tobacco operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

██████████

██████████