

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

**Submission No:** 27  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

1. Introduction I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. I am a concerned community member and local stakeholder in the Gympie CBD, particularly [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] This submission reflects ongoing community concerns about the operation of a vape shop currently trading on Mary Street, Gympie, which has had a negative social and economic impact on the area.

2. Local Impact – Mary Street, Gympie The presence of this vape shop has coincided with a noticeable increase in anti-social behaviour, including loitering, intimidation, and the congregation of individuals who appear to be drug-affected. These behaviours have: Discouraged families and shoppers from visiting Mary Street; Negatively affected the perception of safety in the CBD; and Led to reports from local businesses of customers avoiding the area altogether. Recent damage to property of business owners near the vape shop, with traders being concerned that this is linked to the trade of illegal tobacco at the vape shop. While not all vape retailers engage in illegal practices, the current situation in Mary Street appears to involve illicit nicotine products being sold, drawing a clientele associated with substance misuse. This undermines the safety, wellbeing, and confidence of the wider community.

3. Support for the Bill I strongly support the objectives of the Bill, particularly its intent to: Reduce the availability of premises involved in illegal tobacco and nicotine sales; Hold landlords accountable for knowingly leasing premises used for illicit trade; and Enhance enforcement powers to close down non-compliant operations swiftly. In regional centres like Gympie, visible enforcement and community reassurance are critical. A stronger legislative framework that enables health authorities, councils, and police to act promptly against illegal vape and tobacco sellers would have an immediate positive impact.

4. Recommendations To strengthen the Bill's implementation and community outcomes, I respectfully recommend: Enhanced enforcement in regional areas – Allocate dedicated compliance resources to towns such as Gympie, where illegal trade is growing. Public reporting mechanisms – Introduce a simple, confidential reporting platform for residents and business owners to alert authorities to suspected illicit sales. Stronger landlord obligations – Ensure commercial lessors have a clear duty to vet tenants and face penalties for enabling illegal retail activity. Community education and engagement – Run awareness campaigns highlighting the risks of illicit nicotine products and the legal consequences of buying or selling them.

5. Conclusion The intent of this Bill aligns with the needs of communities like Gympie that are already experiencing the negative effects of unregulated vape sales. By strengthening enforcement, accountability, and public awareness, the Government can help restore safety and confidence to regional shopping precincts. Thank you for considering this submission. I would welcome any opportunity to provide further detail or local insight if required by the Committee