




Speech By  
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**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

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**TOBACCO AND OTHER SMOKING PRODUCTS (SMOKE-FREE PLACES)  
AMENDMENT BILL; TOBACCO AND OTHER SMOKING PRODUCTS  
(EXTENSION OF SMOKING BANS) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.09 pm): I rise to add to the debate on this important bill, the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill 2015. According to some studies, cigarettes contain about 600 ingredients. When they burn they generate more than 7,000 chemicals. Many of those chemicals are poisonous and at least 69 of them can cause cancer. Many of the same ingredients are found in cigars and in tobacco used in pipes.

Quit Victoria says that when tobacco burns some of the chemicals present are gases, such as carbon monoxide, hydrogen cyanide and nitrogen oxides; liquid vapours, such as formaldehyde, methane, benzene, ammonia and acetone; and part of tiny solid particles, such as phenols, nicotine and naphthalene. They also say that 30 metals have been detected in tobacco smoke, as well as radioactive compounds such as polonium 210 and potassium 40.

Once these chemicals are inhaled into the lungs they pass through the walls of the lungs and into the blood stream and are pumped around the body. Besides causing cancer, the effects of tobacco smoking also contributes to heart disease, stroke and diseases of the veins. It is believed by the medical profession that the combination of nicotine and carbon monoxide causes diseases in smokers by damaging the blood vessel walls, reducing the supply of oxygen to the body.

Cigarette smoke also contains poly aromatic hydrocarbons which speed up the build-up of fatty material on the blood vessel walls and are possibly assisted by hydrogen cyanide, nitrous oxides and some chemicals and tar. These highly reactive chemicals in smoke can damage the heart muscle.

Some adults choose to put these types of addictive chemicals into their own bodies. We need to protect children and other adults who choose to be tobacco free in public places. We need to create more smoke-free zones for the enjoyment of all. Tobacco products are toxic, carcinogenic and addictive. They are the only legal product on the market that kills 50 per cent of its consumers when used as intended. More than 85 per cent of Queenslanders are nonsmokers, yet continue to be exposed to second-hand smoke in public places.

As there is no safe way to smoke, this bill will protect the community by extending the number of smoke-free areas, protecting children and young people from second-hand smoke. The smoking ban areas will include: outdoor pedestrian malls, public transport waiting points, public swimming facilities, skate parks, sporting grounds and spectator areas during organised under-age sporting events, early childhood and care facilities and private and public residential aged-care facilities, except in nominated areas.

Along with the member for Caloundra, I can remember the outrage by some when the banning of smoking was introduced to restaurants and bars. Some believed that restaurants and bars would close down because people would stop going out socially if they were unable to smoke. In fact, the eating venues did not shut down, as we all know. We all had a better experience. We enjoy a meal without breathing in second-hand smoke.

This bill will assist local governments to be able to develop local laws to ban smoking in their outdoor malls. It will also ban smoking at local government operated swimming facilities. A cigarette ban is already in place between sunshine and sunset at the Mackay Bluewater Lagoon. I visit this facility often with my grandchildren. It is a very popular family venue. It also attracts groups of teenagers all having a wonderful time in a smoke-free environment. I have also visited the facilities at Airlie Beach Lagoon and the rock pool in Townsville. They are also very popular places. None of these facilities have suffered by way of visitor numbers due to being smoke-free.

I feel very concerned for young people when I drive past skate parks and see the number of teenagers smoking. It sets up a culture that smoking and skating go together. The banning of smoking within 10 metres of skate parks will save young people from second-hand smoke and lessen the peer pressure on skaters who may not want to smoke.

This bill encourages healthy lifestyles by banning smoking from skate parks, under-age sporting events and also includes bans in our national parks. National parks are places of natural beauty, for relaxation and recreation. People will be able to enjoy their surroundings without being exposed to second-hand smoke.

Pop-up shops at markets, music venues, booths, tents and vessels will be unable to sell tobacco products. These types of pop-up shops often appear at events targeted at young people. Already in Queensland we have had a multipronged approach to curtailing the number of smokers in our state. Smoke-free zones, restrictions on the sale of tobacco, quit-smoking campaigns and education campaigns have helped to cut the smoking rates in Queensland. Sadly, there are still about 10 people in our state dying from smoking relating diseases every day. Even sadder, one of those will be a nonsmoker, killed by exposure to second-hand smoke.

This bill is an important next step in Queensland's tobacco legislation targeting outdoor public places that protect and promote a healthy lifestyle for children, young people and their families. The government's bill is stronger than the one proposed by the opposition. The government's bill has stronger protection for the community. This is good for the physical health and also for the economic health of our state—fewer ill people putting pressure on the health system. I commend the bill to the House.