




Speech By  
**Hon. Di Farmer**

**MEMBER FOR BULIMBA**

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**TOBACCO AND OTHER SMOKING PRODUCTS AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice) (6.22 pm): I rise to speak briefly on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Bill. You actually could not get a more accessible education minister than our Minister for Education. She has given halls and all sorts of things to people all over, from all sides of parliament, and if the member for Coomera has an issue with anything, he knows that he can come up and talk to her to—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Stop the clock. Member for Bulimba, we will stick to the bill. Thank you for that advice, but there are others who will look after that.

**Ms FARMER:** Thank you for that guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. I want to congratulate the committee on their excellent work, and the excellent work they are doing on the vaping inquiry as well. In fact, this committee has done some outstanding work on some very big issues. This is something that I feel very strongly about because you see the consequences of tobacco and other smoking products in terms of causing chronic health disease and the ruining of people's lives. It is so important that we are taking really positive action on this.

I was really interested to see one of the extra recommendations of the committee talking about enhanced enforcement efforts coordinated between Queensland Health and Queensland Police and also between relevant state and federal agencies targeting illicit tobacco and vaping markets. The federal government has only recently come out and made some very strong statements about vaping and what it is going to do, and the state and federal governments will be able to work together very strongly.

Before I go onto vaping, I want to acknowledge the impact that the illicit sale of tobacco and smoking products has on legitimate small businesses. It is very good to see there is some strong support in their direction to support people who are making a legitimate living out of these products.

On the vaping issue, we talk about all the work that has been done to combat the effects of tobacco and the enormous strides we have made in bringing the smoking rate figures down, yet here we have vaping which is sort of like the Trojan horse to a whole new generation of people, leading them to smoking. I went out to my electorate with a survey to see what they thought about that, particularly with a link to smoking. I had hundreds and hundreds of people respond, and in fact I was very surprised by just how many people. Some 42 per cent of them said they were worried about their children vaping; almost 90 per cent of them said they worry about the potential health risks; 86 per cent worry about the availability and attractiveness of vaping products to children; and more than 80 per cent would like more restrictions over the sale of illegal vaping products.

My Bulimba electorate Youth Advisory Panel, who range in age from 16 to 23, when I asked them what were the main issues they want to address this year, they said vaping and the way it can lead to taking up tobacco and more harmful habits was the No. 1 issue. I want to congratulate them. They have written the most impressive submission to the vaping inquiry. They are very interested to follow the

passage of this bill as well. They are so concerned about the false messages on vaping and other smoking products and how that is really insinuating itself into even primary schoolchildren's lives. I want to read out their names because they have done such a good job: Alaina Strongthick, Aneesha Gol, Eliza Rief, Ewan Tiernan, Isabella Hollowand, Samuel Petrou, Maddison Sparks, Hannah Webb, Chiara de Negan, Theon Espina, Chloe Grant, Bernadette Furner, Will Sullivan and Jayden. It is important that our young people feel there is an avenue for them to express their voice. This parliament is meeting the hopes of those young people that we are really taking action over serious issues. I commend the bill to the House.