




Speech By  
**Fiona Simpson**

**MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE**

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**TOBACCO AND OTHER SMOKING PRODUCTS AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (4.53 pm): Formaldehyde, arsenic, lead—we would not accept these chemicals being put into our local streams. We certainly would not expect them to be in our food sources. The fact that they can be inhaled—currently legally—through vaping is just abhorrent. The Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Bill 2023 is about establishing a new licensing regime for the wholesale and retail sale of smoking products and introducing new penalties, but at this point it does not cover vapes. I acknowledge that there is a committee process underway that is looking into this.

Most members of the House have addressed the issue of vaping. I will do that as well, because I think there have been successful inroads into reducing the uptake of tobacco use in our community, with good education and awareness across the generations of just how damaging it is; however, there has been this insidious and sneaky approach to try and rope in new generations of people to take on tobacco usage through vaping, without people being aware that it is not without health risks and that there are all these other toxic chemicals. As Dr Karl said—

Vapes contain a cocktail of toxic chemicals. Things like formaldehyde which they use in cleaning products, glue—and mortuaries! NOT somewhere you want to end up prematurely.

I think that really sums it up. We expect that we will look after the environment, but what about the most important part of the environment—the health and wellbeing of humans—and ensuring children in particular have good information and are kept safe so that they are able to live full and healthy lives? The vaping issue needs to be addressed because it does risk people's lives in a way that has been underestimated. Young people are being sucked in by products that are dressed up to be appealing, with different gadgets that can be quite trendy and flavours that may be appealing. I hope that the laws that will eventually come to this place will address this more effectively.

We need compliance and good education. We have to ensure that this generation, which unfortunately has been roped into the insidious and damaging use of this anti-health product, gets the support they need. Otherwise, tragically, they could be part of stories that we were hoping would no longer be heard about people who die from the health impacts of inhaling substances that damage lungs and damage health. This has an impact on not only them but also their whole families. The stories used to be a lot more common but they still exist. I have heard members in this House talk about family members and loved ones whom they have lost or who have suffered from lung cancer. This is largely a preventable disease. You can get lung cancer without having smoked but it is rare compared to those who have smoked, who are at higher risk. We should never lose sight of the fact that it is preventable.

The chop-chop shops that have been allowed to proliferate in our communities are an absolute disgrace. It has got out of hand. Finally, there is an attempt to regulate this, but I think this legislation is in fact an admission of failure. This has gone on too long and these shops are everywhere. They are selling illegal products and they have been virtually untouchable. It is really important that, with this legislation that is supposed to make it easier to crack down on illegal entities by regulation, compliance is enforced. That is so important, because those who are playing by the rules—while it is not a product

I like, it is legal and it is supposed to be controlled—need assurance that they will not be undercut by the criminals and those doing the wrong thing. People should not think these chop-chop shops are being run by kindergarten teachers; they are being run by bikies and a whole lot of feral ratbag criminals who have been allowed to get away with it for far too long. We should toughen the laws but make sure there is compliance so that those who are acting legally are not penalised for following the law while the criminals, the bikies and the other ratbags are allowed to get away with not following the law. It is time to have the laws, but we should make sure they are enforced and there is a regime to address this in the appropriate way.