




Speech By  
**Michael Crandon**

**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2023

**TOBACCO AND OTHER SMOKING PRODUCTS AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.57 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Bill and also report No. 32 of the 57th Parliament's Health and Environment Committee. I note there are three recommendations in the report. The first is for the bill to be passed. The second states—

The committee recommends improved alignment of the Medicines and Poisons Act 2019 and the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 to remove barriers to executing warrants, searching premises and seizing contraband items.

The third states—

The committee recommends that the Government fully consider resourcing enhanced enforcement efforts coordinated between Queensland Health and the Queensland Police Service, and between the relevant state and federal agencies targeting illicit tobacco and vaping markets.

In that regard I believe we have broad support for the bill before the House. I note also that the report lists comments from people submitting witness statements to the committee. One such comment is that—

... placing more stringent limits on the sale of e-cigarettes and e-liquids, for example by restricting their sale to pharmacies, under prescription, regardless of whether they contain nicotine.

It also reports that in response to that the department said—


... more stringent regulation of e-cigarettes and e-liquids falls beyond the scope of the Bill, but may be considered in the future.

That is of grave concern to me, and the comments by the committee also reference that.

A major issue of concern to me is the vaping epidemic in our schools. We have certainly seen an explosion in the number of tobacconists in my area. In fact, it has roughly doubled over the last little while.

In fact, in the last six to nine months I have seen two additional tobacconists open. Just down the road—a few hundred metres in each direction—there are additional tobacconists. Let's not fool ourselves: they are not selling enough cigarettes to justify that number of tobacconists; they are selling vaping products and they are selling them to our youth in greater and greater numbers. I constantly receive complaints. In fact, I brought the matter to the attention of the health minister two years ago and, coincidentally, one of her responses to me was on 24 May 2021. Today is the two-year anniversary.

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 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (6.14 pm), continuing: I rise to continue my contribution on the bill. In the closing seconds prior to the debate being adjourned, I spoke about the letters that I had received from the Hon. Yvette D'Ath, the then minister for health and ambulance services and Leader of the House. The first letter was coincidentally from two years ago today, on 24 May 2021, and the second letter was from 16 August 2021. The reason for the second letter was to further reinforce comments that the health minister had spoken about in her first letter which came about as a direct

result of feedback from my community and in particular my school community that there had been an explosion in vaping incidents within my high schools, in particular, and my primary schools. Clearly, for all of that time, vaping has been and continues to be a big issue in my community.

As I mentioned earlier, the number of stores have doubled over time. The biggest school population in the state is in the Coomera electorate, so it is a big issue, with more than 20,000 young people going to school. I have been told unofficially, sadly, that in recent times my state schools have been told not to suspend students for using e-cigarettes and other vaping products. It is okay in relation to using drugs, alcohol and cigarettes. Yes, suspensions are okay there, but they should not suspend students for using vaping products. What message is that sending to my community and the communities around Queensland?

**Ms Grace:** That is false; absolutely false.

**Mr CRANDON:** I take the interjection from the minister who is saying that is not correct. I have it from sources within Education Queensland that principals have been told—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr CRANDON:** Let me make it clear. Principals have been told not to suspend students for using vaping products.

**Ms Grace:** Absolute rubbish.

**Mr CRANDON:** That is the information that I have received from my schools. If it is wrong, Minister, you make sure that your director-general and your deputy directors-general call that back.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Coomera is referring directly and specifically, against the standing orders, at the Minister for Education. He should conform to the standing orders.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker):** I will take advice. Member for Coomera, you can recommence.

**Mr CRANDON:** I am making it very clear that I am very concerned about the turn in policy to one of not suspending students for the use of vaping products in our state schools. I am very concerned about that. It sends a message—

**Ms PEASE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The title of the bill that we are debating is the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Bill. It is not about education. I ask that you call the member back to the long title of the bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** In relation to the member for Lytton's point of order, vaping has been discussed throughout this whole session and there has been a bit of latitude on both sides. I will let the member for Coomera proceed but I ask you to stick to the title of the bill as best you can. You have two minutes and 49 seconds.

**Mr CRANDON:** I refer to report No. 32 on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Bill 2023 where the issue of vaping and concern about young people vaping is mentioned throughout that report. If it is not an issue for members opposite that we have a situation where young people are not being suspended from school for using vaping products but are being suspended from school—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Stop the clock. Member for Coomera, you keep going on about the school and other issues peripheral to this bill. We have given you some latitude on the vaping, but please stick to the title of the bill. You have two minutes and five seconds.

**Mr CRANDON:** Thank you for your direction there.

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton, please. You have the floor, member for Coomera.

**Mr CRANDON:** Thank you. Well—

**Ms Pease:** He has nothing to say.

**Mr Watts:** He can't because someone keeps going after him.

**Mr Smith** interjected.

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Take your seat, member for Coomera. Member for Bundaberg and member for Lytton, please. Order!

**Mr CRANDON:** I find it absolutely amazing, perfectly frankly, that I have this sort of interjection from people who make out that they have concerns about the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Bill.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Stop the clock. Take your seat, member for Coomera. Member for Toowoomba North, please, we are trying to hear. Any more interjections, I will start warning. I have given you plenty of time. I might be new in the chair, but, please, we are nearly there.

**Mr CRANDON:** I make it clear that I support the amendments that are being proposed in the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Bill 2023. I make it clear, though, that in what we have heard and the point that I was trying to make earlier was that two years ago I wrote to the Minister for Health in relation to these matters, and today we have comments in the report where the department has said—

In the course of the inquiry, the committee also heard evidence from submitters and witnesses who were concerned about the increasing use of e-cigarettes in the community.

The comment from the department in response to those concerns that were raised was—

More stringent regulation of e-cigarettes and e-liquids falls beyond the scope of the bill but may be considered in the future.

I was raising this issue with the Minister for Health two years ago. Two years later, we have a situation—

*(Time expired)*