




Speech By  
**Hon. Craig Crawford**

**MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER**

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**TOBACCO AND OTHER SMOKING PRODUCTS (VAPING) AND OTHER  
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (4.06 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to debate on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Vaping) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I want to thank the committee chaired by my good friend the member for Thuringowa, the deputy chair and the other committee members. I will not go into the detail of the bill, as others have spelt that out quite well, but I see vaping and illegal tobacco as a moving target. This parliament and governments over the next couple of generations are going to be dealing with this issue over and over again as the illegal trade—and sometimes the legal trade—adapts its methods and movements to avoid or get around government intervention or loopholes.

A close family member of mine was a moderate smoker and decided to take up vaping to see if she could reduce the number of cigarettes she smokes, as some people say that it is a great way to stop smoking. She is certainly evidence that that is not the case. She reduced the number of cigarettes she smoked and started using vapes, but after about three or four weeks she started to experience significant headaches, migraines and a range of other medical problems. She went to GPs, she went to physios and she went to chiropractors. She did what someone does thinking that it is something else, and in the end the culprit simply turned out to be all of the metals and all of the substances that were coming through in the vapes. It is unusual for a medical expert to say this, but a medical expert said to her, 'Perhaps you should stop using the vapes and go back onto the smokes,' and that is exactly what she did and all of her symptoms disappeared within days. She will never know what was in those vapes, but we have a strong suspicion that it would have been a number of nasty chemicals.

This is a completely unregulated industry. Kids and adults have absolutely no idea what is in these vapes. As I said before, this is a moving target for this parliament and other parliaments around the country and around the world. We need to ensure we continue to be nimble and adapt as we move forward. We need to take the politics out of this and address it as parliamentarians. I support the legislation that is before the House tonight. I thank the committee for their work.