




Speech By
Cynthia Lui

MEMBER FOR COOK

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

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (7.11 pm): I rise to speak on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Vaping) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. E-cigarettes, or vapes as they are commonly known, are battery operated devices that deliver aerosol by heating a liquid that is inhaled by users. I want to talk about the impact of vaping on different groups in our communities, especially young people in our communities and also Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

I am very concerned about how vaping is making its way into discrete communities in my electorate. Like sly grogging, vapes are being bought for less and taken into discrete communities and sold for anywhere between \$70 and \$150. The impact of vaping on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities will see their health status only worsen over time. Without the proposed amendments in this bill, vaping may well set us back in terms of improving health outcomes for First Nations people into the future. I know it is very complex to work to address health outcomes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities right throughout my electorate for the obvious reason around remoteness; it is very challenging. I know that the impacts of vaping upon an already vulnerable group of people in our communities is only going to make health outcomes that little bit harder to achieve.

I am particularly grateful for this bill because I know it is going to achieve many things. The primary objectives of this bill are to: ensure Queensland can enforce the Commonwealth ban on the supply and possession of vaping goods; give effect to the government's response to recommendations made by the former Health and Environment Committee in its report titled *Vaping: an inquiry into reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland*; and remedy deficiencies in the state's existing regulatory environment. Some of the objectives to achieve this will include increasing the current penalties for persons who supply and possess illicit tobacco as part of a business activity, creating a new offence relating to adults who supply illicit nicotine products to children outside of a business activity and creating new offences relating to displaying, advertising or promoting illicit nicotine products.

(Time expired)