




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (7.08 pm): I wanted to briefly rise to support this bill. I think it is a very positive step to have greater enforcement and control over these dangerous products. Members on this side have passionately spoken about how dangerous vaping is. We originally had laws under the previous federal government that were supposed to ban nicotine-based vapes at the border but the evidence since that point has become stronger that any type of vaporising product is dangerous for health. The evidence about it reducing smoking is not nearly as clear as it once was, so this is a very important step.

We have to remember where this problem came from. We were supposed to stop all nicotine-based vapes at the border. However, Peter Dutton, the minister responsible for that, grossly failed and we saw coming across the border nicotine-based vaporisers that were bubblegum flavoured and had comic book characters on them. Peter Dutton was either completely oblivious to it or ignoring the problem of vapes coming across the border. That is why the federal Labor government had to take action: to try to play catch-up after Peter Dutton's failure.

We saw that when the federal government put forward a draft bill, again the federal Liberal Party went missing in action and we had to look around to try to pass it through the Senate. At that point the only people willing to actually engage with this were the Greens, which is a deal with the devil that we would never want to make; they are the reason vapes are now in pharmacies. Just as the pharmacists have said, I would like to see vapes taken out of pharmacies and completely eradicated because they are not good for Australians, especially young Australians.

When the Greens forced these amendments in order for the bill to be passed because the LNP was not present, Simon Chapman, the Emeritus Professor in Public Health at the University of Sydney, was quoted as saying it was 'hugely disappointing bad news' that 'the Greens have flushed the prescription-only access component of the reforms down the public health toilet'. This is particularly condemning of the Greens. He is quoted as saying—

"If your child is vaping after these reforms, thank the Greens who feel they knew better than every significant health and medical body in the country," he said in a compilation of statements ...

I would add to that: never forget that they were aided and abetted by the LNP in Queensland.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, members. Order, Minister. You are going to have your chance in a minute.

Mr Purdie interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Ninderry.

Mr POWER: The article continued—

The Greens insisted on amendments to the Bill despite an open letter signed by dozens of ... organisations ...

We could have done better. We know that this will be reviewed in three years. I think we will see that banning this dangerous product is going to be better for Australians and better for people's health, especially that of young Australians. Remember, if you see a child in the future with a vape on the street, you can thank the Greens and the LNP.