



Speech By  
**Lance McCallum**


**MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 November 2025

**TOBACCO AND OTHER SMOKING PRODUCTS (DISMANTLING ILLEGAL  
TRADE) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

**Second Reading**

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (8.20 pm): There are a number of very serious issues that this bill seeks to address that relate to the public health response that is required when it comes to combating and responding to the sale of illegal and illicit nicotine products. These are issues like the public and community impacts of the sale of illicit tobacco and nicotine and the impacts of organised crime and the public safety concerns that stem from that. Many speakers throughout the course of this debate have given examples of everything from firebombing to repeated break-ins when it comes to illegal vape and tobacco stores. Then there is the impact of illicit tobacco sales on lessors and, importantly, the impact that the illegal tobacco trade has on lawful, legal businesses that are trying to do the right thing.

The Labor opposition will always support good, considered reforms that are based on evidence, that are backed by sensible expert advice and that are designed to practically improve the health of Queenslanders. That means continuing to reduce smoking rates and the number of preventable deaths and disease that we see in our community from smoking and tobacco products. Thankfully, over the past 2½ decades we have seen a steady downward trend in smoking. That is part of the public health response that has been mobilised to date. While it is good to see that progress, there is much more to do. We cannot rest on our laurels and we need to be ever vigilant. The presence of illegal tobacco and vaping products is an excellent example of why we must always be committed to improving the public health response that we have for illegal tobacco.

This bill goes to a number of reforms that will help such as expanding short-term closure orders from 72 hours to three months; expanding the existing long-term closure powers from six months to 12 months; expanding seizure and forfeiture powers; a number of other reforms around lessors and the offences that this bill creates; improvements in enforcement activities; and increasing the information that is to be collected to improve the operational impacts that arise from this legislation.

I was a little disappointed to hear some contributions from LNP members who criticised the then Labor government's actions and reforms when it comes to vaping and illegal tobacco products. I want to acknowledge the very authentic personal contributions and stories that have been shared by members from all sides of the chamber when it comes to this reform. That is why I found it a little disappointing to hear some of the partisan comments that have been made, particularly in relation to Labor's record. I think any objective assessment of the previous Labor government will show that there is—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr McCALLUM:** I was not going to do this, but since there are so many speakers from the government who want to play politics with this issue—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr McCALLUM:** I was going to say that maybe we could have had a little bit of sensible bipartisanship when it comes to stopping the illegal vaping trade, but what would you expect from the party that took \$44,000 from the vaping lobby? An expose from ABC's *Four Corners* a couple of years ago showed that there were donations from the director of Legalise Vaping Australia. I will table the article that shows a nice picture of a bunch of federal LNP politicians, one of whom is Senator Matt Canavan, one of the colleagues of those opposite.

*Tabled paper:* Article from ABC online, dated 28 June 2022, titled "Personal" donations to the Liberal Party came from vaping lobby during debate over policy' [1810](#).

They can come in here all they want and talk—

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Mr McCALLUM:** Somebody is a little lively tonight! It is good to see. While we welcome these changes, it begs the question, as other speakers have raised, why the LNP have now suddenly decided to listen to the advice of experts and undertake a bunch of reform processes, including a parliamentary inquiry that was undertaken in this parliament and under a Labor government—

**Mr Crandon:** Why didn't you do something about it?

**Mr McCALLUM:** I take the interjection from the member for Coomera. I was just about to say that the parliament passed two laws—not one law but two—under the Labor government as well as held the parliamentary inquiry. I did not hear the member for Coomera say, 'Give back the \$44,000 in donations from the vaping lobby.' No. Where are the members from the LNP now saying, 'No, we should absolutely give back that \$44,000 in donations? It would be utterly hypercritical of us to stand here in this chamber and not give those donations back.' I challenge them to pick the charity that they will donate \$44,000 to tomorrow. If they have any authenticity about them, that is what they will do.

I want to reflect on the contribution of the member for Southern Downs, in particular when he was intimating that the reforms that Labor enacted were ineffectual. Let that be the test for this bill. The member for Southern Downs is one of those who spoke very confidently about the effect the reforms in this bill will have. Time will tell. Tonight we have seen government speaker after government speaker stand up and say that this will work. We will hold them to account if these reforms do not work.