



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 5 – JUSTICE AND COMMUNITIES

MEDIA RELEASE

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT INQUIRY INTO THE ILLEGAL TOBACCO TRADE IN NEW SOUTH WALES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
22 MAY 2025

The NSW Legislative Council's Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Justice and Communities has commenced a new inquiry into the illegal tobacco trade in New South Wales. The inquiry will examine a range of issues surrounding the sale of illegal tobacco including links to organised crime and money laundering, the social and economic impacts on local communities and businesses, and the adequacy of existing legislative and administrative frameworks, including compliance and enforcement regimes.

The Chair of the committee, the Hon. Robert Borsak MLC, said that: 'The rise of the black-market tobacco trade and its impact on local communities and small businesses has been widely reported and appears to be reaching crisis point. Small businesses have reported instances of violence, intimidation and financial insecurity and there have been reports of harmful substances detected in illicit tobacco products including fungal and mould spores.'

'This inquiry will be an opportunity for us to hear from various stakeholders, including industry experts, small businesses, health professionals and law enforcement agencies, to better understand the nature, extent and impact of the illegal tobacco trade. The committee is particularly keen to hear from small businesses and communities in regional New South Wales,' Mr Borsak added.

The Chair continued: 'Increasing excise duties, while intended to reduce consumption and generate revenue, may not be having the desired effect. The committee looks forward to gaining a detailed evidence-based understanding of what is happening on the ground with a view to determining whether the legislative framework and enforcement regime is adequate to address this growing problem.'

The committee welcomes submissions from interested stakeholders and members of the community. The closing date for submissions is **Friday 1 August 2025**.

For more information about this inquiry, including the committee membership and terms of reference, see the inquiry webpage:

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=3100>

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For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon. Robert Borsak MLC, on 9230 2573