

INQUIRY INTO ILLEGAL TOBACCO TRADE

Name: Mr Kevin Handes

Date Received: 24/05/2025

Please consider Taxes on tobacco and alcohol are excessive, making these products especially tobacco, extremely expensive to buy through legal sources. Additionally, the NSW Government has income from gambling through Lotto. These are all significant social problems in Australia and therefore, seem to demonstrate unsound financial policy. If a solution to any of these social problems becomes available, for example, vaping, governments in this country are left in the position of considering the positive impact of the solution as well as budgetary concerns. Tax reform is clearly necessary. The reason for the illegal tobacco trade in Australia is the high price of tobacco resulting directly from the excessive tax on tobacco. Organised crime is always ready to fill a need and many ordinary Australians are accessing these cheaper tobacco sources. The longer this continues, the more organised crime will gain a foothold in the tobacco industry. The mafia in the United States were able to become established largely due to the prohibition of alcohol. The solution is to significantly lower the taxes on tobacco. Thankyou. Kevin Handes.

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Name: Mrs Anne Jones

Date Received: 24/05/2025

These illegal tobacco shops can cause serious risk to public health—encouraging our youth to take up smoking and vapes. Some of the products being sold are untaxed and dangerous. These products can bring organised crime in our area and many other rural towns. Our communities are not safe when this illegal business occurs.

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Name: Ms Sara Barelen

Date Received: 24/05/2025

I believe this proliferation of illegal smoke shops is due to the excessive taxes waged on smokers in an attempt to make smoking unaffordable but it's backfired because we are addicted and will buy them at any cost, sometimes at a detriment to eating properly and looking after family. Get rid of these huge taxes and people won't need to find alternative sources for their cigarettes

**Short Submission
No. 0072**

INQUIRY INTO ILLEGAL TOBACCO TRADE

Name: Mrs Indira Culmsee

Date Received: 26/05/2025

illegal tobacconist in Murwillumbah Post code 2484 northern NSW has been operating for three years. Only cash transactions

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Name: Mr Robert Bell

Date Received: 04/06/2025

The sale of Illegal tobacco has already cost one local business \$80,000 in lost trade. Why is the Health Department tasked with enforcing the law? I understand there are 12 staff across the state. Please check if any of them are aware of regional NSW. The fines and enforcement are limp at best. The sale of illegal liquor is policed by the Federal Police, why not illegal tobacco. It is time that the Federal Government reduce the tax to make the sale of illegal tobacco unattractive to criminal gangs.

INQUIRY INTO ILLEGAL TOBACCO TRADE

Name: Ms Cathryn Newcombe

Date Received: 12/06/2025

Why are there so many of these shops? Are they fully compliant with all laws? Australia needs to manage this proliferation which is undoing all the good work previously to reduce smoking.

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Name: Mr Daniel Rianto

Date Received: 12/06/2025

Either my ignorance or lack of awareness, I thought there was some barriers to entry when selling tobacco eg.license requirement, similar to liquor license. Also the whole point of reducing smoking was to reduce the future impact on health care. 1) if it's understood correctly- anyone can open a tobacco shop, is this correct? 2) how are sales and stock reconciled for state and federal? One would assume tax is being paid on legitimate trades 3) recommendations: - shops should be limited in number similar to pharmacist business models max of 3 per area. - audits and compliance should be carried out randomly - shops should be restricted in distance from schools and public open spaces. - increase police powers to investigate tobacco shops - random sample of tobacco products should be tested for quality and content. - laws should be updated so vapes and future new products (eg patches, etc) are automatically included

INQUIRY INTO ILLEGAL TOBACCO TRADE

Name: Mr Tanish Gupta

Date Received: 12/06/2025

I wish to submit an urgent enquiry regarding the rampant sale of illegal tobacco and vaping products across New South Wales. It is evident that numerous tobacco and convenience stores are openly flouting the law, with these illicit products readily available to the public. There appears to be a concerning lack of police or government presence to conduct routine audits and inspections of these establishments, allowing the black market to flourish unchecked. Furthermore, it is critical to understand that a reduction in the tax rate will not address the fundamental issue of black market supply; the problem lies deeper within the illicit trade networks. Given that nearly all illegal tobacco and vapes are imported, a thorough investigation into how these substantial quantities are bypassing port security and entering Australia is paramount to effectively combatting this growing crisis.

**Short Submission
No. 0077**

INQUIRY INTO ILLEGAL TOBACCO TRADE

Name: Ms Sabrina Nizeti

Date Received: 13/06/2025

Please ban all illegal tobacco and vapes as they pollute our beaches, public spaces and are very dangerous in our environment and personal health and safety.

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Name: Suzan Fayle

Date Received: 15/06/2025

I'm a mentor with the Raise Organisation at Narrabeen Spirits HS, dealing with many students at in years 8 & 9. These students tell me that a very high percentage of them are vaping, but don't seem to understand what they contain & don't believe these vapes are dangerous or addictive. There are a number of 'Tobacco stores' in my area of Wakehurst & Pittwater state electorates & Mackellar federal electorate. Opposite Wheeler Heights PS Opposite Mona Vale PS At Dee Why shopping area & many more. At Collaroy where I live & witness youths & high school kids consistently entering the tobacco shop on Pittwater Rd & often opening a vape packet, leaving it on the ground outside the shop. I've also witnessed on duty police in the shop speaking to staff on numerous occasions. We urgently need legislation to outlaw these proliferating shops for the sake of the health of our youth & to prevent criminals providing these premises with illegal vapes & cigarettes (aka 'hop chop' at cheap prices.

INQUIRY INTO ILLEGAL TOBACCO TRADE

Name: Jennifer Cuthbertson

Date Received: 16/06/2025

I am very concerned about the proliferation of tobacco shops throughout suburbs in NSW. We all know the harm that smoking does to individuals, families and the strain on medical facilities and therefore taxpayers. There is clearly an issue with illegal tobacco as demonstrated by the crime around these shops and their operators. This is a clearly a matter that the NSW government needs and has the right to investigate and crack down on and legislate and prosecute accordingly as required.

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Name: Mrs Harriet Strudwick

Date Received: 17/06/2025

The Government needs to enforce the laws. If shops open up that sell illegal vapes, tobacco and alcohol, the owners businesses should be shut down. People involved should be given serious fines, a criminal record, face risk of imprisonment. All illegal stock should be confiscated. This should be extended to the whole business, as the business is operating under an illegal cashflow, so all matters relating to that business is tainted. It is ridiculous that these laws are so brazenly flouted. The police know where illegal operations are taking place. Even if they acted, and they clearly rarely do, the fines that are issued are too small to be a deterrent to this criminal activity. The cost of employing people to bust this activity could be partly met by fines collected and resulting increased taxes. These laws were put in place to protect people health and to aim to stop people from consuming these products. It was also driven by an aim to stop young people getting addicted. Unless we effectively shut down these illegal operations, none of these objectives will be met

INQUIRY INTO ILLEGAL TOBACCO TRADE

Name: Mr Franck Duhamel

Date Received: 02/07/2025

I would like to raise my concern about tobacconists selling illegal cigarettes and vapes on the Northern Beaches where I live. The offence goes hand in hand with selling these products to minors, who usually can't afford the price of legal cigarettes. Furthermore, I know that some tobacconists also sell nitrate oxide, another form of drug. There are so many tobacconists opening up everywhere, this is a terrible situation when we see our children getting addicted to these products. Regulations need to be introduced to control who sells what and to whom, and also where these shops could be set up, definitely not near schools. Thank you.

**Short Submission
No. 0082**

INQUIRY INTO ILLEGAL TOBACCO TRADE

Name: Mr Navjot Singh

Date Received: 31/07/2025

Illegal tobacco has ruined our business and there is big loss of revenue to govt.to.

INQUIRY INTO ILLEGAL TOBACCO TRADE

Name: Ms Marta Citterico

Date Received: 13/08/2025

To Whom It May Concern, Resident and visitors of the Northern Beaches have recently seen a spike in the concession to run "tobacconist" businesses. Residents like myself, are confused about what added value these business bring to the area, considering the plethora of existing shop providing the sale of the same goods, namely lollies, drinks and tobacco. Our concern is that these Tobacconists might be carrying out other business behind the counter and frankly, the shop owners do not even attempt to hide their mischievousness. Some shops have barely any goods on display, other have shopfronts completely blacked out. Furthermore, the external decor of these shops is appalling and the interior fitout is non-existent. Let us be honest, they are just a cheap cover to whatever business is carried out inside, which does not need advertisement to lure clients (illegal cigarettes and vapes, at least). How are these Tobacconist business allowed to conduct in this manner? We trust the governrnet will look into this matter, which I am aware is state wide issue. Thank you for your attention, Marta Citterico