

INQUIRY INTO ILLEGAL TOBACCO TRADE

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

While convenience stores selling tobacco products are not new, the proliferation of dedicated "tobacconists" in our suburbs is a new phenomenon.

Our suburb of Seaforth has a total population of just over 7000 people. We now have four tobacconists. There is no legitimate way a suburb of this size could sustain this many of the same type of retailer. There are tobacconists in every surrounding suburb to cater for those not living in Seaforth.

Moreover, the latest one to open is about 20 metres from the local public primary school, and has an enticing display of lollies visible from the front windows to attract the children. It is a very easy way to normalise the vape and tobacco trade with children.

But also of concern is the real-world knowledge that these types of stores are vulnerable to arson/petrol bomb attacks. Insurance companies are now not insuring these business because of the likelihood of attack. We do not want any such business in an area where children could become casualties of an attack.

Also related to the insurance issue is many of these businesses have sprung up in multi-use buildings. Given the insurance issue is the responsibility of the Strata Manager/Body Corporate, are there any guidelines to assist these entities determining how to deal with these 'legitimate' businesses?

Landlords and tenants sign a lease independent of the Strata Managers. But having an uninsurable business move into a building complex drastically effects all owners and tenants. There has to be some legislation allowing Body Corporates the right of veto if a landlord signs a lease with an uninsurable business (or one that will blow-out the insurance premiums for the whole building).