

**Submission  
No 16**

## **INQUIRY INTO ILLEGAL TOBACCO TRADE**

**Name:** Georgina Greer

**Date Received:** 13 June 2025

---

**Sender:**

Georgina Greer

11/6/2025

**To:**

The Hon. Ryan Park MP

Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health and Minister for the Illawarra and South Coast

and submitted through <https://www.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government/ministers/minister-for-health-minister-for-regional-health-and-minister-for-illawarra-and-south-coast>

Northern Beaches Council

Mr. James Griffin MP

Member for Manly

The Hon. Michael Daley MP

Attorney General of New South Wales

**Subject: Urgent Appeal Against the Establishment of a New Tobacconist on Frenchs Forest Road, Seaforth, in Close Proximity to Seaforth Public School**

Dear Minister Park, Northern Beaches Council, Mr. Griffin MP, and Attorney General Daley,

We are writing to express our profound alarm and strong opposition to the imminent opening of a new tobacconist on \_\_\_\_\_ Seaforth, located a mere 30 metres from \_\_\_\_\_

This development poses significant and unacceptable risks to the health, safety, and well-being of our community, particularly our children, and raises serious concerns about broader societal impacts.

Direct Social and Health Impacts on Our Children:

The proximity of a tobacconist to a primary school is nothing short of reprehensible. Research consistently demonstrates that easy access to tobacco products, coupled with increased visibility of tobacco retailing, normalises smoking and significantly increases the likelihood of youth experimentation and initiation. Our children are inherently vulnerable to environmental influences, and placing a tobacco outlet so close to their learning environment directly undermines public health efforts to reduce smoking rates, especially among young people.

Furthermore, a tobacconist, by its very nature, can attract individuals who may not be positive role models for young, impressionable minds. This creates an environment that is not conducive to the safe and healthy upbringing of our school-aged children. We are deeply concerned about the potential for exposure to smoking, litter, and other associated behaviours that could negatively impact our primary school students.

Linkages to Money Laundering and Organised Crime:

Beyond the immediate health concerns, we are acutely aware of the growing issues surrounding the illicit tobacco trade in New South Wales and its undeniable connection to organised crime and money laundering. Recent reports and statements from various authorities, including the NSW Liberal-National Opposition, have highlighted a "dramatic increase in tobacconists" being linked to an "outbreak of violent crime" and illicit activities.

It is a well-established fact that legitimate tobacconists can be used as fronts for illegal tobacco sales, which directly funds organised criminal networks. The proceeds from illicit tobacco are often laundered through seemingly legitimate businesses, further entrenching criminal enterprises within our communities. The proliferation of such outlets, particularly in residential areas like Seaforth, raises legitimate fears that this new store could contribute to this concerning trend, undermining community safety and potentially exposing our neighbourhood to the associated risks of organised crime.

Call to Action:

We urge your respective offices to take immediate and decisive action to address this critical issue. Specifically, we request:

- Northern Beaches Council: We ask that you investigate the planning and zoning approvals for this business, and if any discretionary powers exist, to revoke or amend them based on the extreme proximity to a school. We also ask for an assessment of any local policies or ordinances that could be applied to restrict or prevent such a business from operating so close to a sensitive location.
- The Hon. Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health: With the new NSW tobacco licensing scheme commencing on July 1, 2025, we implore you to ensure that this scheme rigorously assesses applicants, considering their suitability and the impact of their proposed location on public health, especially in relation to schools. We believe that a location just 30 metres from a primary school should be an automatic disqualifier for a tobacco license. We also urge you to enhance enforcement efforts against any illegal tobacco activities if this business proceeds.

- Mr. James Griffin MP, Member for Manly: As our local representative, we seek your immediate advocacy and support in raising this matter within Parliament and with the relevant ministers. Your voice is crucial in ensuring that the concerns of your constituents are heard and acted upon.
- The Hon. Michael Daley MP, Attorney General: We ask for your office to consider the broader implications of the proliferation of tobacconists, particularly in light of their documented links to organised crime and money laundering. We urge you to consider policy measures that strengthen regulatory oversight and enforcement to disrupt these criminal networks and protect our communities.

The well-being of our children and the safety of our community must be prioritised above all else. Allowing a tobacconist to operate within such a short distance of \_\_\_\_\_ is a grave oversight with potentially devastating long-term consequences. We are committed to fostering a healthy and safe environment for all residents of Seaforth and expect our elected representatives and health authorities to uphold their responsibility to protect our community.

We look forward to your prompt response and decisive action on this urgent matter. We are available to meet at your earliest convenience to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Georgina Greer

Concerned Resident of Seaforth/North Balgowlah