

**Submission
No 17**

INQUIRY INTO ILLEGAL TOBACCO TRADE

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So the NSW Liberals and presumably Labor want to either ban Tobacconists or heavily regulate them on the premise that the community needs protection from this vile habit.

I am not a smoker nor involved in any way with the sale or distribution of tobacco, legally or illegally! I just believe in freedom of citizens to have a business and others to their own stupidity.

Unfortunately this habit is currently legal although heavily taxed, regulated and advertising is banned. So much so that major crimes gangs are causing lots of trouble.

Australia and NSW are becoming like the old Soviet Union, a nanny state heavy regulating its citizens to the Party's ideology.

1. Since when should governments regulate what a business person should sell and how many can sell it? They will go broke if there are too many.

2. Tobacco is a legal substance. Ban it if you are so upset about it. No compensation necessary just like the proposed coal mine you will not compensate non corrupt investors.

3. Tobacco is currently already heavily taxed and regulated.

4. Parental responsibility? Vulnerable children are buying tobacco? Nice emotional language but if that is the case where do the children get the money to buy tobacco?

5. This is a Federal Government problem. They keep increasing the tax until it is worthwhile to smuggle tobacco into the country. Heavens knows what sort of contaminated tobacco is being imported poisoning the addicted smoker! Why are NSW Police chasing this when there are lots of other crimes to chase. Let Australian Customs do their work.

6. Yes tobacco is a bad product and creates health problems.

Where is your problem with soft drinks, juices and other substances full of sugar causing diabetes 2? Big time problem with obesity and health risks and getting bigger problem every year.

7. Stop the nanny state attitude. Public servants, Federal, State and Local Council, must sit in rooms thinking on ways to further restrict citizens rights and freedom. what was it last three years in Federal parliament? 5,000 new rules and regulations!

Cheers