

# CONSTITUENT QUESTION

## House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Michael Ferguson MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Roger Jaensch MP  
Minister for Mental Health and  
Wellbeing

### QUESTION:

As you are aware, there is an increasing trade in illicit black-market tobacco and vaping products occurring across our state, including my electorate in Bass. My constituent is a legal tobacconist who must comply with strict rules of product supply, storage and sales. Legal tobacco sellers must also pay significant tobacco seller license fees to pay for the cost of government regulation. My question is, what is the government doing to disrupt and confiscate illegal product due to the failure of the federal government to stop illegal imports arriving in our country? Also, will you work with your colleague, the Minister for Police, and look at the work occurring in South Australia to disincentivise and shutdown dodgy illegal sellers which include organised crime syndicates to identify new solutions that will assist our community here in Tasmania?

### ANSWER:

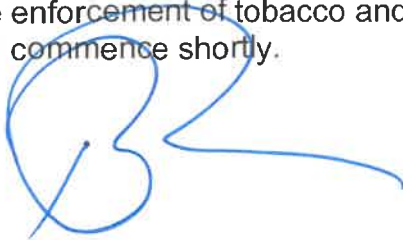
Tobacco Control Officers (Officers) from the Department of Health conduct operations to detect, disrupt and deter the sale and distribution of illegal tobacco and vaping products in Tasmania. Where these illegal products are detected, powers under the *Public Health Act 1997* are used to issue fines and to seize and destroy the illegal/illicit products.

The information gained through tobacco control operations is actively shared with partner agencies including Tasmania Police, Australian Border Force, Australia Post and the Australian Tax Office to collectively dissuade and deter the illicit tobacco trade in our State.

To further combat the illegal trade of vaping and illicit tobacco products in Tasmania, the Government is committed to strengthening tobacco control laws under the *Tasmanian Tobacco Action Plan 2022-2026*. This includes amendments specifically targeting illicit tobacco and vaping products.

As part of this process, the Government is examining a range of legislative reforms from other States and Territories to combat the illegal tobacco and vaping trade, as well as considering novel and nuanced approaches that suit a Tasmanian context. This includes jurisdictional scanning for effective and innovative solutions to these issues across Australia. Tasmania has a long and proud history as a leader in tobacco control, at both the national and international level. We are working on combining the best lessons from other jurisdictions, and our own stakeholders, to determine the most appropriate legislative and non-legislative controls for Tasmania.

Additionally, during the Parliamentary debate of the *Public Health Amendment (Vaping) Act 2025*, I announced the creation of four new positions to enhance the enforcement of tobacco and e-cigarette laws in Tasmania. All the new roles will commence shortly.



Hon Roger Jaensch MP  
**Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing**

Date: 5/6/25