

MARCH 2026

Fact sheet: Public Health Amendment (Prohibited Tobacco and Other Products) Bill 2026

The Tasmanian Government is working to address the increasing supply of illicit tobacco, vapes and other smoking products in our State. Illicit tobacco, vaping and other products undermine preventive health efforts to reduce smoking.

As a first stage, the *Public Health Act 1997* will be changed to urgently ensure that more stringent enforcement measures are available to manage the sale and supply of illicit tobacco, vaping, and other nicotine products.

The changes will include to:

- create a new offence for the sale and supply of illicit vaping products
- increase penalties for the sale and supply of illicit tobacco and vapes
- introduce new powers to close businesses that sell illicit products or operate outside of the licensing framework
- ban the sale and supply of smoking products from vending machines
- ban the display of smoking paraphernalia in retail stores. This will ensure products are not visible to consumers, including children and young people and
- improve enforcement responses for offences relating to obstruction of a nominated officer and for the sale of smoking products to people under the age of 18.

These actions will help further protect the health of Tasmanians and our communities, complementing the amendments to the Public Health Act made in 2025, which ensured that only adults can purchase e-cigarettes with a prescription in Tasmania.

Local businesses can be confident these laws will not affect their operations while targeting the illicit trade.

The second step, which will be implemented by the end of 2027, will see smoking, vaping, and nicotine laws consolidated into a standalone Act for Tasmania.