



**Police Federation
of Australia**
The National Voice of Policing

6 October 2023

SUBMISSION to the

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

via – community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Bill 2023

The Police Federation of Australia (PFA) is the national body representing the professional and industrial interests of Australia's more than 65,000 police officers, across all state, territory, and the federal police jurisdictions.

Membership as at: 31 December 2022	
Police Association of South Australia	4,703
Western Australia Police Union of Workers	6,880
Queensland Police Union of Employees	12,177
The Police Association of Victoria	17,424
Police Association of NSW	17,020
Police Association of Tasmania	1,415
Northern Territory Police Association	1,628
Australian Federal Police Association	4,040
Police Federation of Australia	65,287

The PFA thanks the Committee for the opportunity to provide comments relating to the *Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Bill 2023*.

We have written numerous submissions and appeared before a range of Parliamentary and other Inquiries into issues of serious and organised crime. Our keen interest in this Bill is due to the fact that the illicit tobacco and vape market is growing at an exponential rate and much of it is being controlled by such crime groups. As such, the Government's health policy in relation to tobacco and vapes is being undermined by cheap, often dangerous and unregulated products.

In November 2019 the PFA provided a submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement's (PJCLE) Inquiry into Illicit Tobacco and in December that year appeared before the committee to give evidence. Much of our submission and evidence focused on issues around the lack of enforcement and engagement across numerous federal agencies and states and territories in respect to illicit tobacco sales, the need for a nationally consistent licensing regime for retailers and the greater use of intelligence on those involved in such activity.

That Committee reported in 2020, with strong bipartisan support, via a number of very relevant recommendations, which unfortunately have not been acted upon either by the previous or current governments. That lack of action has seen the sale of illicit tobacco products and now vapes, continue to grow substantially, the funds from which are allowing serious and organised crime groups to carry out further illegal activity including the importation and distribution of drugs.

It is the PFA's strong view that at least two of the key recommendations of that Committee's Report should be acted upon as a matter of urgency.

They are:

- **Recommendation 5**

5.65 The committee recommends the Australian Government explore options to develop a nationally consistent licensing regime for tobacco products, including tobacco product manufacturing supplies and equipment.

- **Recommendation 7**

5.102 The committee recommends the development of a National Illicit Tobacco strategy, in conjunction with state and territory police forces, as a co-ordinated, national law enforcement-led response that will:

- outline the roles and responsibilities of all relevant stakeholders and agencies;
- clearly articulate the actions and stratagems to be implemented;
- include strategies for improved information and data collection and sharing; and
- be published as a subset of the National Drug Strategy, while retaining confidentiality for operational material.

In November 2022, I was again invited to appear before the PJCLE as a follow-up to the Committee's 2020 Report.

At that appearance I again focused on our concern that serious and organised crime was behind much of the illicit tobacco sales in Australia and the proceeds of those sales were driving other illegal activity, including drug trafficking by these groups. That view has not changed over the ensuing 12 months, except that it has become stronger as the rise of illicit outlets has continued to grow, as has the control of serious and organised crime over the sale of such products.

In my 2019 submission I quoted the ATO tax gap for the 2016-17 financial year as \$647 million. The most recent ATO's analysis shows that figure for the 2020-21 year, to now be \$1.9 billion. That figure does not include lost GST to the states, or the loss of revenue for legitimate retailers of legal tobacco products. I also note that in 2021 KPMG estimated that almost 20% of all tobacco consumed in Australia was illicit. As previously indicated, such illicit activity continues to undermine the Government's own health strategies in regard to smoking and has not been sufficiently addressed by either the previous or the current government.

In my 2022 submission and evidence, I again reiterated a number of initiatives that could be introduced to target the substantial increase in illicit activity.

This hearing provides this Committee the opportunity to review the unanimous findings of the PJCLE's inquiry into illicit tobacco and make recommendations to Government about actioning those recommendations.

I am aware, that the March 2022 Ministerial meeting on Counter Terrorism and Transnational, Serious and Organised Crime, agreed to work together to consider opportunities to coordinate enhanced efforts to combat illicit tobacco, including a response to the recommendations of that 2020 Report. Ministers also agreed to reconvene in six months to review progress against the issues discussed and to consider collaborative approaches to other important national security issues. I am advised that the issue of illicit tobacco is again an agenda item on the Police Minister's Council meeting on Friday 6 October.

Throughout the past four years the PFA has continued to advocate for the development of whole of government strategies to support the involvement of state and territory police in targeting retail level sales of illicit tobacco and more recently vapes. Recent reporting continues to indicate that the number of illicit retailers has increased dramatically in that time and a significant amount of violence is currently occurring as serious and organised crime groups compete in the market (see some recent attached headlines in newspaper and other articles). I respectfully suggest, that asking state government health or local council compliance officers to visit and inspect retail outlets with strong links to serious and organised crime is not appropriate.

I pointed out in 2019 that targeting the 'point of sale' transactions of illicit products, would significantly disrupt illicit tobacco sales and by using a licensing regime, if a retailer could not prove the provenance of the product they are selling, then that could constitute an offence under the respective state or territory legislation. I also suggested this could be enhanced by complimentary national legislation.

I further recommended the use of infringement notices, with significant monetary penalties for offending retailers, suggesting it would act as an efficient method of local police intervention and as a real deterrent for anyone thinking of undertaking such sales. Such a strategy would provide a number of positive outcomes, including –

- Disrupting the retail 'point of sale' of such illicit products, including tobacco and vapes, by the introduction of significant monetary penalties for those selling the product;

- Becoming a major deterrent for others contemplating getting into the market of illicit sales;
- Because the fines could be via state-based legislation, any monetary penalties would go to the respective state, thus encouraging them to be more proactive in the enforcement of such illicit activity;
- It would make local police intervention an easier and less time-consuming task; and
- Would be an excellent intelligence gathering tool about the 'point of sale' of such illicit products and identifying who is involved and their potential links to serious and organised crime.

The above suggestions are explicitly contained within the PJCLE Committee's recommendations 5 and 7, as pointed out earlier in this submission.

A fully formed National Illicit Tobacco Strategy would see consistency in enforcement across federal agencies and departments and all States and Territories, in both legislation and policy with clear roles and responsibilities as well as appropriate resourcing for retail enforcement across the Commonwealth and all states and territories. Currently there appears to be no coordination across the various responsible federal agencies and departments, let alone states and territories.

Such a strategy would also ensure that those that are selling illicit products could come under the respective proceeds of crime legislation, thus forfeiting their ill-gotten gains to be used on important crime prevention initiatives that would be of benefit to the whole community.

The PFA has met with Crime Stoppers who have indicated their willingness to be involved in such a national campaign.

As a means of expediting such a strategy and ensuring sufficient resources are available on the ground for retail enforcement, particularly in those states where the illicit retail outlets have taken a significant foothold, the Australian Government should fund state police to be part of Illicit Tobacco Task Force, Strike Teams, established initially in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. Such funding could be for an agreed period contingent on the respective state enacting tobacco licensing legislation.

For this initiative to be successful, it would require the support of the respective state governments and their police forces. Noting the outcomes of various Ministerial meetings, and the recent spate of violence between gangs involved in this illicit activity, that proposal would likely be supported.

Together with the above strategies, it is also incumbent upon Government to use its powers to target websites and other social media platforms that are promoting and selling such illicit products, often to underage people. There is a specific role for the Department of Communications in this process, which appears to date, to not have been actively involved in the enforcement of such activities.

I also very recently gave evidence to a PJCLE hearing into Challenges and Opportunities in addressing Australia's Illicit Drug Problem. In that hearing I made the analogy of illicit tobacco and illicit drugs. I suggested that Australia had actually taxed tobacco into making it illicit and that there were far more, generally, law abiding citizens, purchasing illicit tobacco now than ever before, when the taxation policy and health policies were actually trying to restrict people from using tobacco products. I suggested that as a result, we have moved illicit tobacco from a health issue to a serious policing issue.

I respectfully suggest that the intent of the *Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Bill* will be undermined and not achieved unless the government has a concerted effort to attack the proliferation of illicit tobacco and vape products currently readily available to the public.

I would be happy to appear before the Committee to expand on any aspects of this submission.

Sincerely yours,

Scott Weber APM
Chief Executive Officer

APPENDIX A –

Herald Sun Newspaper Suite ***Illicit Tobacco*** search of past year to 6-Oct-23 of articles, audio & video news pieces.

Results = 290.

Search Results

illicit tobacco

290 Results for illicit tobacco Sort By Latest

Filters Clear

Type

- All
- Article
- Audio
- Video

Time

- Anytime
- Past Day
- Past Week
- Past Month
- Past Year

Brand

- All
- Adelaide Now
- Courier Mail
- Daily Telegraph
- The Herald Sun
- News.com.au

Victoria

Supermarket boss warns illicit tobacco trade costing jobs
The head of supermarket chain Ritchies IGA says organised crime is smashing the legal tobacco industry as illicit operators flog products at half the price.

Melbourne turf wars sparked over billion-dollar illicit tobacco trade
Organised crime identities and bikies are joining forces with international cartels to flood Melbourne with illegal tobacco as consumer demand surges.

Police & Courts

South Yarra murder may have been over cigarettes
The shooting death of an underworld figure known as "Afghan Ali" could be connected to the illicit tobacco trade.

Father of four busted with two tonnes of illegal tobacco
A father-of-four and local business owner has been jailed after importing more than two tonnes of illicit tobacco products worth over \$3.5m in avoided tax.

Law agencies 'dismantle' sly tobacco op
Authorities have pounced on a two-hectare crop of illegal tobacco - the third in a string of NSW busts - which will cut a cash pipeline to organised criminal networks.

Townsville

'Scared for my life': Shocking toll of illicit tobacco trade
Illicit tobacco is rife across Queensland, as MPs are given a picture of the alleged organised crime behind the black market.

NSW

Police bust illicit tobacco syndicate in NSW's central west
Police have raided an illegal tobacco plantation in the state's central west. More than 16 tonnes of tobacco was seized.

Townsville

New tobacco laws to combat illegal trade taking hold in NQ
New laws could help crackdown on the illicit tobacco trade which has been taking hold of North Queensland.

National

150kg of illicit tobacco busted by Innisfail police on Wednesday
The execution of two search warrants in Innisfail uncovered more than 150kg of illicit tobacco and cigarettes on Wednesday.

Cairns

Police seize 150kg of black market tobacco in major Far North raids
Police have raided two Far North properties and arrested a Kiwi woman in Innisfail in connection to a major stash of illegal cigarettes, chop chop rolling tobacco and vape products.



Meth, cash, illicit tobacco seized in Sydney dawn raids

More than a kilo of meth, tens of thousands of dollars in cash and illicit tobacco were seized in a string of police raids across Sydney just after daybreak yesterday. Three of the four men charged, did not apply for bail in court. Read what's known.



Townsville

'Gone bust': Tobacco industry at tipping point

The illicit tobacco trade across Australia is set to explode as the federal government prepares to ban flavoured cigarettes, industry representatives says. Here's how it's going impact local businesses.



SA News

Stung: Adelaide stores caught on video selling illegal tobacco

A special investigation has caught numerous Adelaide stores selling illicit tobacco, or "chop chop", over the counter - dodging huge fees, but risking jail time. See where the shops are.



National

Illicit tobacco trade sting in Adelaide

An investigation has uncovered footage of illicit tobacco sales in Adelaide stores.



Concerns about illicit tobacco sales still rife in Bundaberg

There are concerns a Bundaberg business is still allegedly selling illicit tobacco products despite being raided by Qld Health, police and the Tax Office in February.



Townsville

UP IN SMOKE: A new kind of organised crime in NQ

The underbelly of North Queensland's illegal tobacco trade has been exposed with two business women lifting the lid on the 'organised crime' setting up shop in Townsville.



NSW

Illicit tobacco found in Riverina town

A drug bust in the Riverina has led to 542m worth of illicit tobacco being found and destroyed. See the video.



VIC News

Illicit tobacco seized by Australian Border Force

The Australian Border Force seized more than 1377 tonnes of illicit tobacco at the country's borders in 2021



Gold Coast

Incredible places illicit tobacco is being sold

Vapes and cigarettes are allegedly being sold in all kinds of retail outlets - and even by rideshare drivers - as the market in illicit tobacco products explodes. SEE WHERE



Northern Territory

Border Force picks up massive shipment of illicit tobacco in Darwin

A whopping 260 kilos of illicit chewing tobacco from India seized by the Australian Border Force will be destroyed in Darwin today.

Filters [Clear](#)

Type

- All
- Article
- Audio
- Video

Time

- Anytime
- Past Day
- Past Week
- Past Month
- Past Year

Brand

- All
- Adelaide Now
- Courier Mail
- Daily Telegraph
- The Herald Sun
- News.com.au

 Goulburn Valley
Illegal tobacco bust in Shepparton and Mooroopna
Police have busted an alleged illicit tobacco syndicate following raids across Sydney's southwest, with officers seizing cash, 60kg of loose tobacco and more than 16,000 packets of cigarettes. [FIND OUT MORE.](#)

 **Man charged after police bust alleged illicit tobacco syndicate**
Police have busted an alleged illicit tobacco syndicate following raids across Sydney's southwest, with officers seizing cash, 60kg of loose tobacco and more than 16,000 packets of cigarettes.

 NSW
Man charged following investigation into illicit tobacco syndicate
Police have uncovered an illicit tobacco importation operation and charged one man following the execution of nine search warrants in Sydney's...

 **Illicit tobacco raids seize 8 tonne, worth \$10m of 'chop chop'**
The illicit tobacco, sometimes referred to as chop chop has been readily available in Gympie.

 NSW
30 Sydney suburbs where illicit tobacco sales are rampant
Retailers caught selling cheap ciggies could be hit with on-the-spot fines as new figures show seizures of illicit tobacco have soared. It comes as the federal government considers establishing a task force to deal with the issue. [SEARCH THE SUBURBS](#)

 **Illicit tobacco crop uncovered at Lake Bolac**
More than 12 hectares of illicit tobacco has been seized and destroyed at Lake Bolac.

 VIC News
\$7.8m illicit tobacco operation busted in Nhill
The Australian Taxation Office have seized and destroyed more than 47.5 tonnes of illicit tobacco after busting a \$7.8m operation in Nhill. [Video...](#)

 National
Eight arrested in illicit tobacco syndicate sting
Eight men have been arrested after police uncovered a large-scale illicit tobacco syndicate in Sydney's southwest. Police allege the group...

 National
Illicit tobacco dealer shut down in Sydney
Illicit tobacco dealer shut down in Sydney

 **Multi-million dollar illicit tobacco ring busted in Sydney**
Australian Border Force has busted a massive illegal cigarette smuggling syndicate, finding nearly 1.9 million cigarettes and 1200kg of loose leaf tobacco in a Greenacre warehouse.



ABF smashes illicit tobacco import gang. Credit: Australian Border Force.

▶ 02:15



National

Record seizure of illicit tobacco in WA

▶ 00:42



Arrests in multimillion-dollar tobacco sting

BORDER force agents have found four tonnes of loose tobacco, and 340,000 cigarettes during a raid of five homes in a western Sydney tobacco smuggling ring.



QLD News

Illegal tobacco openly on sale

ILLICIT tobacco – much cheaper than the legal product – is being sold just 400m away from a southeast Queensland police station and the authorities have known for months.



Illicit tobacco is easy pickings, if you know where to look

ILLICIT tobacco is being sold just 400m away from Ipswich Police Station, even though the authorities have known for months.



National

Pair arrested over illicit tobacco imports

▶ NaN:NaN



SA News

Bad date: Illegal tobacco bust at Adelaide shipyard

AUTHORITIES have seized thousands of packets of illegally imported tobacco at an Adelaide shipyard, hidden inside a shipment of dates from Iran.



VIC News

Three arrested over illicit tobacco ring in Melbourne

▶ 01:02



Economy

Sneaky trick to sell cheap cigarettes

A GROWING number of tobacconists are adopting sly tactics to sell cigarettes under the table. But one group claims it is all a big lie.



News

Illicit tobacco trade 'funding terrorism'

SHISHA stores and tobacconists are selling illegal tobacco in paper bags to punters, with the cash helping fund terrorism and organised crime.

Filters [Clear](#)

Type

- All
- Article
- Audio
- Video

Time

- Anytime
- Past Day
- Past Week
- Past Month
- Past Year

Brand

- All
- Adelaide Now
- Courier Mail
- Daily Telegraph
- The Herald Sun
- News.com.au



Tobacco smuggling syndicate busted

AN alleged illicit tobacco smuggling syndicate operating in southwest Sydney has been targeted by police, with five men charged following raids across the region yesterday.



NSW

Millions in tax going up in smoke

TAXPAYERS have been ripped off by at least \$640 million because of illicit tobacco shipped by criminal gangs and importers in the last five years alone.



Illicit tobacco sellers to thrive if law changes

Banning smoking for under 25s would simply drive it underground, writes Andrew Gregson.



Law & Order

Police bust illicit tobacco smuggling ring

POLICE have seized more than \$8 million of assets after busting an alleged illicit tobacco importation gang.



NSW

Illicit tobacco worth at least \$90m

BORDER Force officers have made the biggest seizure of tobacco in Australian history, netting 71 tonnes with a street value of at least \$90 million.



Illegal tobacco on the rise

ONE area in Western Sydney has become a hotspot for illegal cigarettes, with the tobacco industry warning the latest excise increase will only fuel the growth.



\$190,000 of illegal tobacco seized

POLICE have seized about 14,700 illegal cigarette packs from nine different retailers plus 57 glass pipes, used for smoking illicit drugs like 'ice'.



VIC News

Gangs flood Australia with illicit tobacco

MIDDLE Eastern crime gangs are behind the massive boom in the illicit tobacco market in Australia.



Law & Order

Where there's smokes, there's illegal tobacco

THE BILLION dollar illicit tobacco black market has hit a record high as Australian smokers balk at the price of legal cigarettes.

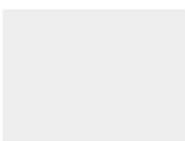
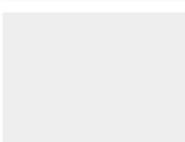
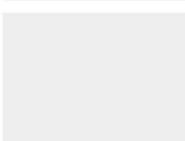
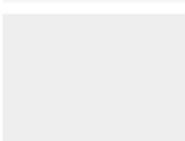


National Breaking News

Victorian crackdown on illicit tobacco

RETAILERS in Victoria caught trying to sell illicit tobacco are to face a massive increase in penalties from later this year.

Herald Sun

	<p>Smoke, mirrors mask illegal tobacco</p> <p>ILLEGALLY imported cigarettes not only kill smokers, their sale robs the Commonwealth of \$1.1 billion in excise. Yet prosecutions remain rare.</p>
	<p><small>Alan Howe</small></p> <p>Smoke, mirrors mask illegal tobacco</p> <p>ILLEGALLY imported cigarettes not only kill smokers, their sale robs the Commonwealth of \$1.1 billion in excise. Yet prosecutions remain rare.</p>
	<p>Smokers snub ciggie plain packets</p> <p>EXCLUSIVE: The world-first act of plain packaging for legal cigarettes has failed while the illegal tobacco trade in Australia is booming, a report says today.</p>
	<p><small>Law & Order</small></p> <p>Illicit tobacco funding criminal gangs</p> <p>ILLEGAL tobacco is booming across Australia, funding international criminal gangs, and costing taxpayers more than \$1 billion each year.</p>
	<p><small>East</small></p> <p>Illicit tobacco sales on a roll</p> <p>SMUGGLED tobacco is being sold in this municipality and traders say it is hurting their businesses.</p>
	<p><small>Law & Order</small></p> <p>Cops seize 80 million illicit smokes</p> <p>THE biggest organised illicit tobacco importation syndicate in Australia's history has been busted, police revealed.</p>
	<p><small>Police & Courts</small></p> <p>Tobacco shop boom before brutal turf war erupted</p> <p>A massive surge in the number of illicit tobacco stores in Victoria has sparked a series of firebombings and shootings as customers are warned they are "feeding the beast that is organised crime".</p>
	<p><small>Police & Courts</small></p> <p>The tobacco turf war behind torched Melbourne shops</p> <p>A crime syndicate known as The Commission is trying to control Melbourne's illicit tobacco market, and may be launching a campaign of terror to get its way.</p>
	<p><small>Cairns</small></p> <p>Watch chop-chop and alleged dirty cash seized in black market bust</p> <p>A traffic intercept has led to the chance seizure of Chinese-branded black market tobacco and more than \$250,000, alleged to be the proceeds of a thriving illicit trade in Cairns. See the video.</p>
	<p><small>News</small></p> <p>54,000 vapes, \$2m in banned smokes seized during Qld blitz</p> <p>Rolling raids across the state as part of a major multi-agency blitz has targeted the illegal sale of tobacco, vapes and other smoking products on the back of new laws in Queensland. See where retail crackdown hit hardest.</p>

Filters [Clear](#)

Type

- All
- Article
- Audio
- Video

Time

- Anytime
- Past Day
- Past Week
- Past Month
- Past Year

Brand

- All
- Adelaide Now
- Courier Mail
- Daily Telegraph
- The Herald Sun
- News.com.au



QLD News

Cash, vapes and illegal tobacco seized in huge multi-agency tobacco raids

The ABF-led Illicit Tobacco Taskforce (ITTF) and partner agencies have shattered a large scale illegal tobacco syndicate in a series of raids...



Watch: Cash, vapes seized in illegal tobacco raids

A large-scale illegal tobacco syndicate has been smashed following a series of raids by an Australian Border Force-led taskforce in Queensland and New South Wales.



NSW

Cops make huge \$28m illegal tobacco bust in NSW's west

More than 16 tonnes of illegally-grown tobacco valued at \$28 million has been seized by police in one of the biggest crop busts in NSW history.



Regional News

Tobacco, vapes and cash: Police target alleged sale to children

'Significant intelligence' from the community led to regional police uncovering more than \$500k worth of illicit tobacco and vapes allegedly being sold to young people, including children in school uniforms. WATCH THE VIDEO



Cairns

Cops make tobacco bust

A 29-year-old New Zealand woman has been charged after the execution of two search warrants in Innisfail uncovered more than 150kg of illicit...



PREMIUM Cairns

Back market tobacco trade thriving in Cairns

Organised crime networks pedalling illicit tobacco products have set up in plain sight in the Cairns CBD selling chop-chop and smuggled cigarettes...



NSW

Grandad learns fate for role in \$3m tobacco syndicate

An illegal Central Coast tobacco crop so massive it was captured on satellites also caused a loss of \$9m excise tax. One of its key organisers has found out his punishment for his role in the syndicate.



Bendigo

Illegal tobacco seized equal to '14 bulldozers'

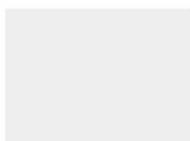
Video shows the moment the ATO pounced on 276,000kg of illicit tobacco worth more than \$52 million at two separate properties near Bendigo and Albury.



National

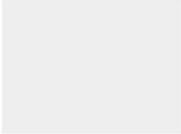
ATO tobacco seizure

The ATO seized and destroyed over 276,000kg of illicit tobacco across two separate properties in regional NSW in late March 2022. Video: ATO



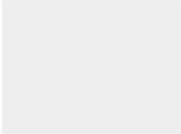
Tobacco tip-offs, pawnbroker probe: Police comb Coast stores

Detectives have acted on tip-offs about alleged illicit tobacco sales and carried out spot checks for stolen goods at local pawnbroker and second-hand shops.



Tobacco 'boss' busted with \$250k worth of illegal plants

A police raid on a remote Wide Bay property uncovered more than 600kg worth of illegal tobacco plants and illicit tobacco. Read what happened.



Police & Courts

Soaring cost of ciggies sees black market flourish

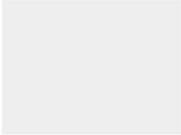
Organised crime syndicates from Asia and the Middle East are trying to cash in on Australians seeking cheaper alternatives to legal tobacco.



Herald Sun

Special investigation: Cheap chop shops 'explode' across Qld

Secret footage has revealed a Rockhampton store selling cigarette packets that don't comply with Federal laws and more suspicious activity. The high cost of cigarettes has resulted in an explosion of these shops. WATCH THE VIDEO



Police & Courts

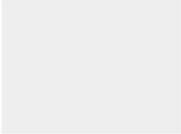
Expensive ciggies driving chop-chop crime racket

As cigarette prices rise, crime syndicates are making more from illegal 'chop-chop' tobacco than cocaine. Here's the hot spots.

SA News

Nationals Party Put On Notice Over River Murray 27/06/21

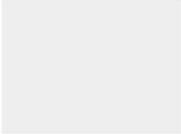
Prime Minister Scott Morrison should intervene if necessary to bring the Nationals into line on the River Murray or risk losing Boothby at the next federal election The Magic Mike Live show could be on it's way to Adelaide Organised crime syndicates are cashing in on Australia's lucrative illicit tobacco market due to sky-high profits and minimal enforcement risks And House hunter struggling to find a property in Adelaide's tight market might not have to wait much longer to secure their dream home



QLD News

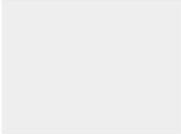
Police, ATO seize \$40 million in illegal tobacco

Up to four hectares of illegal tobacco has been uncovered in a raid by the Australian Taxation Office and Queensland Police west of Brisbane.



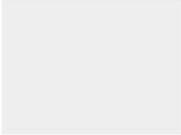
ATO, police seize \$40m illegal tobacco from Toowoomba region

The Australian Taxation Officer raided an illegal tobacco farm west of the city to seize more than 25 tonnes of illicit crops.



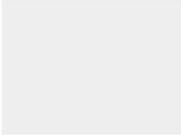
Two tobacco crops, worth \$38m, busted in Vic

Officers have seized 260 tonnes of illicit tobacco after busting crops in another two regional Victorian towns. It is the third bust this month. Watch the video.



\$7.8m tobacco operation busted in Nhill

More than 47.5 tonnes of illicit tobacco has been seized and destroyed in Nhill. See the video.



NSW

International students running lucrative cigarette racket

It was only set up 18 months ago, but a taskforce targeting illegally imported cigarettes has already seized 70 tonnes of illicit tobacco. And now The Sunday Telegraph can reveal international students are increasingly behind the illegal racket.

Filters [Clear](#)

Type

- All
- Article
- Audio
- Video

Time

- Anytime
- Past Day
- Past Week
- Past Month
- Past Year

Brand

- All
- Adelaide Now
- Courier Mail
- Daily Telegraph
- The Herald Sun
- News.com.au



VIC News

\$264m worth of illegal tobacco seized

Several massive shipments of illegal tobacco have been seized in Melbourne this week, with its senders going to great lengths to hide the illicit cargo.



Illegal tobacco haul

Organised crime is allegedly behind a \$16 million batch of illegal cigarettes.



\$1.3m of illegal tobacco seized from north coast property

Illicit Tobacco Taskforce locates nearly three acres of illegally-grown tobacco on a property near Grafton.



Border Force cracks down on illicit trade

AUTHORITIES seized almost 60 million cigarettes last month in a major operation targeting illicit tobacco.



Gold Coast

Coast man charged after 57 million illegal cigarettes found

A GOLD Coast man has been charged with money laundering after a staggering 57 million illegal cigarettes were seized in a joint police operation.



VIC News

Tobacco crims get smoked

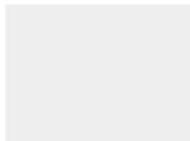
ILLCIT tobacco growers are facing longer jail terms and harsher fines under a Turnbull Government crackdown, with the government missing out on millions in taxes from the illegal trade.



SA News

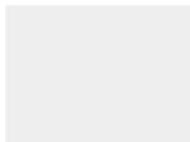
Spike in illegal cigarettes hitting Australian borders

AN alarming spike in illicit tobacco being stopped at Australia's borders is being blamed on criminal gangs crowding the market but authorities say they are powerless to stop it.



Rebels link to 6.2m seized cigarettes

AN investigation into reports of an extortion involving Rebels bikies led to five men being charged over an alleged illicit tobacco smuggling syndicate.



Kids as young as 8 using drugs at primary school

Department of Education data shows 219 students were suspended in 2016 for "substance misconduct" involving illicit drugs, tobacco and other legal substances



Keeping tabs on the scourge of ice

JEREMY PRICHARD: Wastewater analysis reveals the true impact of methamphetamine in Tasmania.

	<p>SA News</p> <p>Tobacco smuggling syndicate smashed</p> <p>A SOUTH Australian woman has been arrested for allegedly importing more than nine tonnes of illicit tobacco into Melbourne and Adelaide.</p>
	<p>Law & Order</p> <p>Criminals ask public to swipe right for smokes</p> <p>ILLICIT tobacco traffickers have turned to a dating app to push their cut-price products on Victorians.</p>
	<p>National Breaking News</p> <p>\$40m of illegal tobacco seized by ABF</p> <p>MINISTER Immigration and Border Protection Peter Dutton says the ABF has made its largest ever seizure of illicit tobacco in a single operation.</p>
	<p>Illegal tobacco now sold in Geelong</p> <p>A NEW report has found illicit tobacco is being sold in at least 13 Victorian country centres, including Geelong.</p>
	<p>Illegal tobacco easy to buy</p> <p>A NEW report has found illicit tobacco is being sold in at least 13 Victorian country centres.</p>
	<p>Tobacco crime is going gangbusters</p> <p>THE black market in tobacco is one of the fastest growing and most profitable organised crime activities in Australia.</p>
	<p>Plain packaging fails to reduce number of cigarettes bought</p> <p>THE tobacco industry's claims that the move to plain packaging would harm the business of small retailers have come to nought.</p>
	<p>Tobacco and \$1m seized</p> <p>FAIRFIELD ADVANCE: Police have seized \$1m in cash and large quantities of illegal tobacco after raiding six shops in Fairfield.</p>
	<p>National Breaking News</p> <p>Customs nabs smuggled tobacco in Vic</p> <p>CUSTOMS and Border Protection has seized tonnes of smuggled tobacco and cigarettes from a shipping container in Melbourne.</p>
	<p>Police & Courts</p> <p>Sell up or burn: Ultimatum given to Melbourne's tobacco shops</p> <p>A wave of arson attacks is heating up Victoria's tobacco trade turf war as organised crime gangs order operators to shut up shop or risk being burnt out of business.</p>

Filters [Clear](#)

Type

- All
- Article
- Audio
- Video

Time

- Anytime
- Past Day
- Past Week
- Past Month
- Past Year

Brand

- All
- Adelaide Now
- Courier Mail
- Daily Telegraph
- The Herald Sun
- News.com.au



Police & Courts

Was Preston capable of bringing hammer down on Gatto?

Mick Gatto seemed more worried about Collingwood's September hopes than a police warning about the threat posed by gangland wild man Gavin "Capable" Preston.



Police & Courts

Tobacco tax is Melbourne's Prohibition moment

A punitive tobacco tax hasn't stopped people smoking, it's driven previously law-abiding smokers to a booming black market and left dead bodies and a string of arson attacks across Melbourne in its wake.



Breaking News

Ex-cop's grave warning over arson attacks

A former police officer has issued a grave warning over a slew of arson attacks on tobacconists in one state.



Police & Courts

Capable happy to show curious mate what it feels like to be shot

When a friend at a party asked what it felt like to be shot, Gavin "Capable" Preston made sure he didn't miss out on an underworld rite of passage.



Police & Courts

Execution came amid Preston's feud with drug kingpin

Gavin "Capable" Preston had allegedly stolen trucks from drug kingpin George Marrog's crew before being gunned down in a Keilor cafe. But many others may have wanted him dead.



Police & Courts

One of Melbourne's most powerful gangsters lives half a world away

One of Melbourne's most powerful underworld figures doesn't even live in the city — the 25-year-old renounced his Australian citizenship and controls the criminal network from the Middle East.



Police & Courts

Tobacco crime war burns in city as solutions report ignored

Organised crime gangs are infiltrating Victoria's retail tobacco sector — with firebombings and murders thought linked — while the Andrews government sits on a report into how to tackle it.



Police & Courts

Named: Stores raided as CCC seizes millions of dollars in tobacco products

CCC officers have raided a series of tobacco outlets and premises across the southeast, seizing millions of dollars in tobacco and vape products.



Cairns

Black market tobacco trade thrives despite crackdown

Authorities have revealed the reason the black market tobacco is thriving in Queensland despite illicit traders being put on notice in May.



NSW

Black market cigarettes send billions up in smoke

One in four cigarettes smoked in Australia is illegal, with a boom in Sydney retailers selling half-price tobacco and authorities unable to crack down on the booming black market.



QLD News

'No way': Store owner denies selling vapes to kids despite \$88k fine

A Brisbane supermarket has been fined more than \$88,000 for selling vapes containing nicotine to children.



Breaking News

Stepdad who dumped 6yo girl's body freed

A stepdad who hid a six-year-old girl's body in a suitcase and set fire to her corpse after she was kicked to death by her mum has been freed from jail.



NewsWire

'Make a decision': Katter on vaping rules

Bob Katter has revealed a very unpopular opinion on vaping while chastising a Labor MP over their stance on e-cigarettes.



NewsWire

\$48 million blow to cigarette black market

Australian Border Force have seized a record haul of an illegal and illicit substance this Easter weekend, with a warning to those trying to smuggle it in.



NewsWire

Police destroy tobacco after \$28m discovery

Police have destroyed about 16 tonnes of illegal tobacco after one of the biggest crops on record was discovered.



Breaking News

Cops make history with \$28m discovery

NSW Police have made a more than \$28 million discovery at a rural property, making it one of the biggest busts in NSW history.



Pair who allegedly sold illegal vapes to teens leave town

Two people arrested and charged following a North Qld police sting targeting the illicit sale of tobacco and vapes to children have entered pleas.



National

This field is worth \$31 million

The massive haul was found in two raids by police - but officers weren't looking for illegal drugs.



Victoria

Vaping black market thriving as police hamstrung

The Andrews government is under pressure to give Victoria Police more powers to beef up its enforcement of illegal vape sales.



SA News

Huge illicit haul of vapes and tobacco seized

A woman has been arrested over the illegal sale of vapes and tobacco products in Adelaide's north, with police warning investigations will likely result in further action.

Filters [Clear](#)

Type

- All
- Article
- Audio
- Video

Time

- Anytime
- Past Day
- Past Week
- Past Month
- Past Year

Brand

- All
- Adelaide Now
- Courier Mail
- Daily Telegraph
- The Herald Sun
- News.com.au



Cairns

Moment police seize 150kg of alleged black market tobacco

Watch the police footage after they seized an alleged haul of black market tobacco in Far North Queensland.



Police & Courts

How border force foiled man's \$4.2m illegal import

A Bundoorra man will spend three years behind bars after officers uncovered millions in tobacco products that he attempted to illegally smuggle into Melbourne.



Illegal tobacco, vapes seized as multiple businesses raided

A raid across three Sunshine Coast businesses and a storage facility has resulted in three arrests and hundreds of thousands of items seized.



Two new tobacco stores open in same week displaying illegal items

New tobacco stores have opened just metres from each other in the Bundaberg CBD within a matter of days, with one shop assistant saying she took a job selling alleged "illegal tobacco" to keep a roof over her head during the housing crisis.



Vape store still displaying illegal items despite major raid

New evidence of a Queensland tobacconist displaying illegal vaping products just months after it was raided has emerged. It comes as tougher penalties loom. VIDEO, PHOTOS.



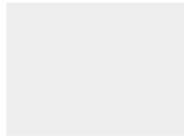
Authorities visit newly opened tobacco shop in Rockhampton

A third tobacco shop has opened in the city in the past nine months and has attracted the attention of Queensland Health and police officials. Here's what we know.



Toowoomba business hit with fines for selling illegal nicotine

In the past two months health officials conducted dozens of inspections at Toowoomba retailers suspected of selling liquid nicotine. They have now revealed fines were issued to one business.



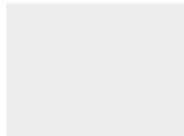
Cops seize 100,000 'illegal' cigarettes

A police raid has uncovered almost 100,000 cigarettes and a hoard of loose tobacco near at Colac.



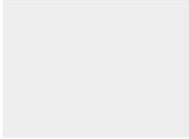
Exposed: Tobacco store opens in Rockhampton with illicit trading

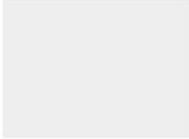
Australian laws state vapes containing nicotine are to only come from a pharmacy and to someone who has a script. See what the store is selling.

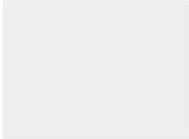


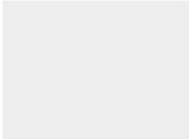
'4354 vapes, 37 bong, flick knives': Men charged after police raid

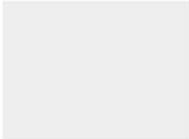
The owner of several vape shops from Bundaberg to Brisbane has faced court, along with his shop assistant, following a dramatic police raid. Full details here:

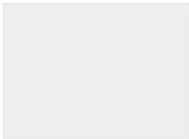
-
- 

Police & Courts
\$400m blow to massive illegal syndicate
Organised crime figures have been involved in a vast ring leasing rural land to illegally grow tobacco and importing huge amounts of cigarettes from overseas.
 - 

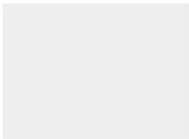
Watch: Police swarm city centre as tobacco, vape shop raided
Police and Australian Border Force officers have raided a Bundaberg tobacco and vape store - the second of its kind to be targeted in the city in recent months. EXCLUSIVE VIDEO.
 - 

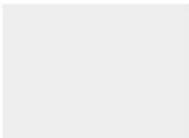
QLD News
'Patrons into outcasts': Hotel industry blasts new smoking ban
Moves to ban smoking in outdoor smoking areas at pubs have been slammed by the hotel industry as costly and excessive. VOTE IN THE POLL
 - 

Police & Courts
Dawn raids in multimillion-dollar tobacco bust
A tobacco smuggling syndicate with links to outlaw motorcycle gangs has been busted with raids conducted at four Melbourne homes.
 - 

NSW
Illegal cigarettes 'more profitable than heroin'
A Daily Telegraph investigation has uncovered hundreds of operators selling half-price illegal cigarettes in Sydney, with authorities unable to stop the flourishing black market.
 - 

Gold Coast
Huge haul of cigarettes and 'chop chop' seized in raids
Almost 300,000 cigarettes and more than three tonnes of 'chop chop' have been seized by the Australian Taxation Office in raids on homes and commercial premises. FULL DETAILS
 - 

Gold Coast
Tobacco stores raided in illegal vape crackdown
Multiple shops on the Gold Coast have been raided by authorities investigating the alleged sale of illegal tobacco products.
 - 

Deaths, violence, loss: The moments that shocked us in 2021
From a mate accused of dumping a dead mate's body in bushland to a prison-yard brawl caught on camera - 2021 has thrown up some wild, shocking and strange moments that kept our police busy.
 - 

Gold Coast
Exposed: Massive black market in illegal tobacco
A network of shops on the Gold Coast is selling black market tobacco as part of a nationwide racket which authorities say is largely organised by crime syndicates. Read our special report.
 - 

Chop chop undercuts 20 year drive pushing smokers to butt out
Illegal tobacco used to be something sold in small amounts between mates in the city but now it is a large-scale enterprise that is flooding Toowoomba and our doctors are worried.

Filters [Clear](#)

Type

- All
- Article
- Audio
- Video

Time

- Anytime
- Past Day
- Past Week
- Past Month
- Past Year

Brand

- All
- Adelaide Now
- Courier Mail
- Daily Telegraph
- The Herald Sun
- News.com.au



City's businesses lose 50% of customers to illegal tobacco trade

Toowoomba is awash with chop chop tobacco that sells for a fraction of the price of the legal alternative. It's a price point that retailers cannot compete with and it's driving them out of business.



Revealed: List of Toowoomba stores openly selling illegal tobacco

Illegal tobacco has flooded Toowoomba and the Darling Downs with stores openly selling chop chop to anyone who asks. The Chronicle has been secretly filming their illicit trade and can reveal just how wide spread it is.



Gold Coast

VIDEO: \$600,000 illegal tobacco bust at Gold Coast border

A man trying to cross the border has been busted by police with allegedly \$600,000 worth of illegal tobacco in his vehicle. SEE THE VIDEO



SA News

Tobacco smuggler jailed for more than two years

A smuggler who illegally imported 163,000 cigarettes in boxes with names such as 'parts' and 'hand catchcry' has been jailed.



Illegal cigarettes racket stubbed out

An Adelaide man caught trying to smuggle 163,000 cigarettes and 85kg of tobacco into Adelaide has denied being the mastermind behind the operation.



South East

Inside Melbourne's booming black market cigarette trade

Smokers desperate to avoid the rising cost of cigarettes are fuelling the black market in illegal tobacco, which is booming in Melbourne's southeast, a Leader investigation can reveal.



Illness

Wild plan to stop smoking in Australia

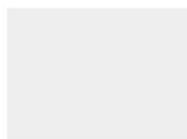
Smokers may soon need a doctor's prescription or pick up their ciggies from the pharmacy in an ambitious new plan to wipe out the habit.



Police & Courts

Tobacco smuggler jailed after police sting

A Malaysian woman who flew to Melbourne to get a more hands-on approach to a money-laundering and tobacco smuggling system for a global criminal syndicate has been jailed for her sophisticated crimes.



Crime in Focus

Inside Adelaide's illegal tobacco trade

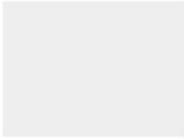
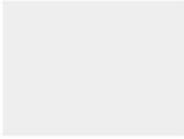
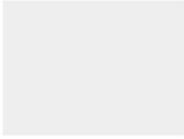
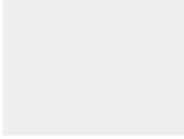
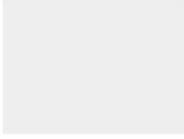
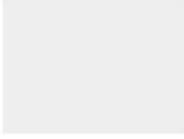
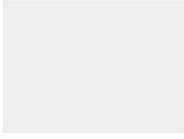
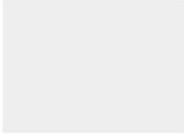
Organised crime gangs are believed to be profiting from smuggled cigarettes being sold in nondescript corner stores across suburban Adelaide - while law-abiding retailers live quietly in fear of retribution.



NewsWire

300,000 cigarettes found in raid

Authorities have allegedly uncovered hundreds of thousands of illegal cigarettes and hundreds of kilograms of undeclared tobacco at a home in Melbourne.

	<p>NewsWire</p> <h3>Mind-blowing haul of illegal tobacco</h3> <p>More than 131 tonnes of illegal tobacco, worth \$171 million in taxes, has been seized and destroyed by the Australian Taxation Office after 19 busts across the country.</p>
	<h3>Bundy residents urged to report illegal crops</h3> <p>The ATO have revealed how much illegal tobacco was seized and destroyed in the last financial year.</p>
	<p>Victoria</p> <h3>Next generation gives toxic habits the cold shoulder</h3> <p>The nation's next generation is shying away from deadly habits like drinking, smoking and illicit drug use, with trends showing a steady change in attitudes towards the toxic behaviour. But health experts still have some concerns.</p>
	<h3>Police swoop on massive 'illegal' tobacco crop</h3> <p>Police and ATO investigators have swarmed a rural property near Goulburn, allegedly seizing 1.9 tonne of tobacco drying out. Three men are accused of running an illegal plantation.</p>
	<h3>\$3m worth of tobacco seized</h3> <p>Police have seized almost one tonne of illegal tobacco worth an estimated value of \$3 million in a raid on a Peats Ridge property.</p>
	<h3>\$100k 'chop-chop' seized from Geelong gift shop</h3> <p>A Newcomb black market tobacco supplier, which was disguised as a gift shop, has been busted in a police raid for allegedly selling a range of illegal tobacco products worth up to \$100,000.</p>
	<p>NSW</p> <h3>Ibrahim co-accused extradited to Sydney</h3> <p>An alleged major player in a 2017 drug and tobacco importation plot has been brought back to Sydney to face court two years after being arrested by AFP in Dubai along with Ibrahim brothers Michael and Fadi.</p>
	<p>South East</p> <h3>Desperate smokers fuelling illegal under-the-table trade</h3> <p>Black market cigarette sales are rampant in Melbourne's southeast, with desperate smokers lining up for bulk under-the-counter deals at Dandenong Market or getting illegal smokes delivered to their homes Uber-style. WATCH THE VIDEO.</p>
	<h3>Smuggling attempt busted at airport</h3> <p>Two passengers have been busted for attempting to smuggle more than \$85,000 worth of illegal product into Avalon Airport on a flight from Malaysia.</p>
	<p>Geelong</p> <h3>Geelong a 'hot spot' for illegal tobacco trade</h3> <p>Australian Retailers Association executive director Russell Zimmerman says Geelong is a "hot spot" for the tobacco black market, "hurting" local retailers who obeyed the law.</p>

Filters [Clear](#)

Type

- All
- Article
- Audio
- Video

Time

- Anytime
- Past Day
- Past Week
- Past Month
- Past Year

Brand

- All
- Adelaide Now
- Courier Mail
- Daily Telegraph
- The Herald Sun
- News.com.au



Police swoop on Moorabool St store

Geelong police have raided a Moorabool St store, removing boxes of black market product from the CBD business.



NSW

Tobacco import ring accused used Bunnings carpark as base

An international tobacco smuggling syndicate used a western Sydney Bunnings car park as its depot for illegal smokes, a court heard Wednesday. Seven of the alleged eight smugglers appeared in court charged over a multimillion-dollar import scheme.



ABF bust huge tobacco smuggling ring in Sydney

Australian Border Force say they have busted a massive illegal tobacco smuggling operation in Sydney, where more than \$2 million in duties were allegedly avoided and 80,000 cigarettes seized.



Man charged over armed robberies in south west Sydney

A man has been charged over two alleged armed robberies in south west Sydney, where he allegedly used a knife to threaten staff.



Border force arrest three in illegal cigarette ring

The Border Force has stopped more than 2.9 tonnes of loose leaf tobacco from hitting Sydney streets and arrested three western Sydney men, smashing an organised crime ring.



Police search for pair abusive to Liberal candidate

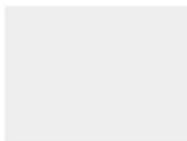
Police are investigating the shocking verbal abuse of East Hills Liberal candidate Wendy Lindsay by a man and a woman while campaigning at Revesby train station.



Law & Order

Men charged over \$10m cigarette smuggle claims

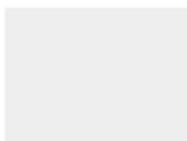
Two men have been charged after allegedly importing 1.1 million illegal cigarettes — and falsely declaring it as black tea — through Melbourne Airport.



Law & Order

Police seize 10 million smokes in Melbourne smuggling bust

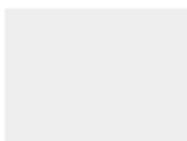
MORE than 10 million illegal cigarettes have been uncovered in sea cargo containers during a massive smuggling bust in Melbourne.



NSW

Border Force smash illegal tobacco syndicate

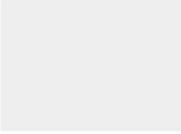
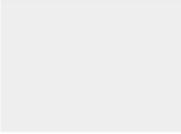
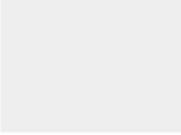
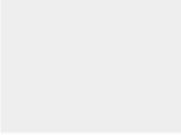
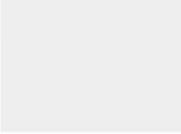
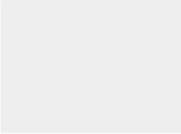
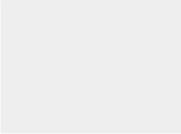
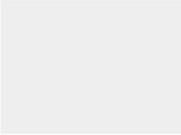
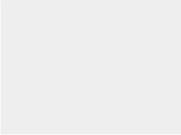
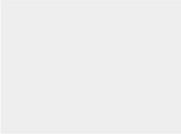
A SMUGGLING ring which allegedly imported more than three million cigarettes and four tonnes loose tobacco has been thwarted following a 10-month investigation.



SA News

Pair arrested over 1.3 million cigarette haul

AUTHORITIES have seized more than 1.3 million allegedly illegally imported cigarettes concealed inside boxes marked "outdoor furniture".

	<p>NSW</p> <p>Ibrahim associate admits to syndicate role</p> <p>A FORMER eastern suburbs real estate agent will plead guilty to his role in a major importation syndicate allegedly involving brothers Michael and Fadi Ibrahim.</p>
	<p>Illness</p> <p>Cigarettes get more expensive again</p> <p>CIGARETTE prices rise yet again today and some argue that despite the attitude towards smoking, we're still being exploited.</p>
	<p>NSW</p> <p>Major sting for Sydney's tobacco black market</p> <p>A FEDERAL crackdown on the tobacco black market is set to save the Commonwealth \$3 billion. The government will now tax tobacco when it is imported into the country rather than when it leaves a warehouse for sale.</p>
	<p>Northern Territory</p> <p>Taskforce seizes huge haul of illegal tobacco</p> <p>A CRACKDOWN on illegal tobacco production has led to a huge haul of 6.9 hectares of illegal tobacco crops and 6 tonnes of tobacco leaf being seized from a property near Katherine</p>
	<p>NSW</p> <p>China gang plot to smuggle cigs into Sydney</p> <p>A DELIVERY driver has been charged after allegedly helping a crime syndicate that smuggled 1.2 tonnes of tobacco into Sydney from China.</p>
	<p>Law & Order</p> <p>Airport security 'alert' after flight crews caught smuggling</p> <p>AIRPORT security officials have been put on alert after crew members from two airlines were caught smuggling contraband into Melbourne.</p>
	<p>Law & Order</p> <p>Border Force swoops over illegal tobacco</p> <p>A DUAL citizen has been arrested at Melbourne Airport over a multimillion-dollar haul of cigarettes declared as toilet paper.</p>
	<p>Tasmania</p> <p>E-cigs an aid to quitting smokes, senator says</p> <p>A TASMANIAN senator is calling on the government to legalise e-cigarettes, saying they allow people to satisfy their nicotine craving without the tar, additives and smoke.</p>
	<p>E-cigarettes the lesser of two smoking evils</p> <p>ERIC ABETZ: Vaping helps wean people off tobacco and should be legalised</p>
	<p>Law & Order</p> <p>Millions of cigarettes seized in Taiwan swoop</p> <p>TWENTY million cigarettes eventually bound for Australia have been seized in a border force swoop during a joint operation with Taiwan customs officials.</p>

Filters

Type

- All
- Article
- Audio
- Video

Time

- Anytime
- Past Day
- Past Week
- Past Month
- Past Year

Brand

- All
- Adelaide Now
- Courier Mail
- Daily Telegraph
- The Herald Sun
- News.com.au



Law & Order

Arrested after arriving mid-police sting

A MAN who arrived at a Ravenhall storage facility during a raid for illegal tobacco was arrested by border force officers after they found another 800kg of tobacco in his van.



Federal Budget

What's really in the Budget fine print

IT'S time to go deep. From sin taxes to super, education and environment, here's a section-by-section overview of the Federal Budget.



Federal Budget

Biggest winners and losers of the Budget

WELL, it means good news for some ... and bad news for others. This is how you fared in the Turnbull Government's Federal Budget.



Federal Budget

Tax cheats targeted in \$5.3b plan

A MAJOR crackdown on the black economy will stop Australians using large wads of cash to pay and catch out those cheating their tax liabilities.



NSW

Budget countdown: What we know so far

FROM tax cuts to health funding, education, infrastructure, crime and more. Here's everything we know coming up in tonight's federal budget.



Law & Order

Man charged over illegal molasses tobacco importation

A THIRD man has been charged over the illegal importation of three tonnes of molasses tobacco after police raided his Epping property.



Law & Order

Illegal tobacco farm raids find crops worth \$23m

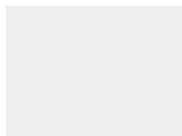
FOUR illegal tobacco farms have been shut down and weapons seized during raids in regional Victoria this week.



VIC News

Drugs, 1700 guns seized by Border Force

BORDER force officers have uncovered 1700 undeclared firearms in the past financial year, as well as a whopping seven tonnes of illegal drugs and precursor material.



VIC News

Tobacco smugglers nabbed in Melbourne bust

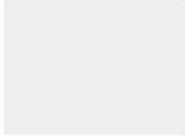
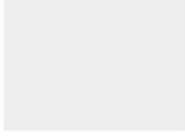
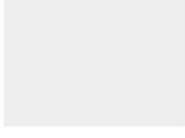
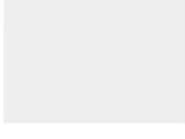
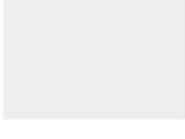
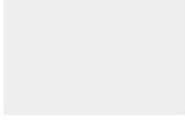
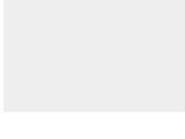
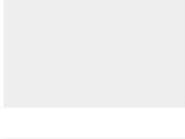
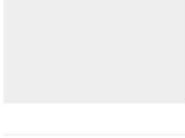
A SMUGGLING syndicate has been cracked by the Australian Border Force with more than 40 people identified as illegally bringing tobacco products into the country.



Leaders

Surprising way North Korea funds its nukes

NORTH Korea is a deeply impoverished country - which begs a critical question about its fearsome arsenal of weapons.

	<p>QLD News</p> <p>Huge haul of illegal cigarettes</p> <p>ALMOST two million illegal cigarettes were seized in Brisbane this week in a massive Australian Border Force sting.</p>
	<p>NSW</p> <p>Raids shake Sydney underworld</p> <p>AT dawn yesterday, police launched a series of raids across Sydney that have dramatically changed the landscape of the city's underworld.</p>
	<p>VIC News</p> <p>Counting the cost of illegal tobacco</p> <p>THE Australian Border Force has seized more than 400 tonnes of illegal tobacco in the past two years, shining a light on the booming black market that is worth hundreds of millions in lost duty.</p>
	<p>VIC News</p> <p>Black market tobacco trade at 'crisis point'</p> <p>AUTHORITIES are being urged to clamp down on illegal tobacco traders as the black market continues to flourish in Victoria.</p>
	<p>Law & Order</p> <p>Illegal tobacco costs taxpayers millions</p> <p>BLACK market tobacco is continuing to thrive in Melbourne with a recent undercover operation revealing just how easy it is for smokers to buy.</p>
	<p>Law & Order</p> <p>Illegal tobacco burns \$1.61bn tax hole</p> <p>ILLEGAL tobacco is now costing the Australian government \$1.61 billion in lost taxes, a report to be published today will reveal.</p>
	<p>Law & Order</p> <p>Dawn raid hits illegal tobacco syndicate</p> <p>A SYNDICATE responsible for importing illegal tobacco into the country has been hit in a dawn raid by the Australian Border Force. The Herald Sun went behind the scenes of the raid in Melbourne CBD.</p>
	<p>National</p> <p>Tobacco lighting up terror groups</p> <p>CRIME syndicates have shifted to smuggling tobacco leaf and cigarettes with government taxes making its black market as profitable as narcotics.</p>
	<p>Tobacco firms still wield too much power</p> <p>KATHRYN BARNESLEY: Government remains too close to industry.</p>
	<p>News</p> <p>New strike teams in illegal tobacco fight</p> <p>TWO new tobacco strike team units will be established and \$7.7 million spent over the next two years to fight illegal chop chop and cigarettes.</p>

Filters [Clear](#)

Type

- All
- Article
- Audio
- Video

Time

- Anytime
- Past Day
- Past Week
- Past Month
- Past Year

Brand

- All
- Adelaide Now
- Courier Mail
- Daily Telegraph
- The Herald Sun
- News.com.au



Business

Australia's flourishing black market

THE tobacco price hike may sound like a great idea, but it's fuelling a dangerous and illegal trade linked to organised crime.



Law & Order

Police smash illegal tobacco syndicate

EXCLUSIVE: AN ALLEGED criminal syndicate which imported 13 million illegal cigarettes and evaded \$45 million in duty and taxes over the last year has been smashed in Melbourne.



Illegal tobacco crop 'worth \$16m' found

ANOTHER big tobacco crop has been discovered in Victoria.



VIC News

Raid nets record illegal tobacco haul

EXCLUSIVE: A RECORD \$15.4 million haul of illegal tobacco has been seized after an Australian Taxation Office raid on a northern Victorian farm.



VIC News

Council losing fight against illegal tobacco

ILLEGAL tobacco sellers are so prolific in regional Victoria one rural council has all but given up attempting to stop them.



Law & Order

Gangs cash in as smokers buy illegal tobacco

ILLEGAL cigarettes and chop chop are flooding Melbourne's streets, with almost 15 per cent of all tobacco consumed in Australia now sold on the black market.



National

Illegal tobacco goes up in smoke

AUSTRALIA'S Border Force has stubbed out an attempt to illegally import a record 71 tonnes of tobacco that could have made 88 million cigarettes.



Law & Order

\$2.7m illegal cigs seized in raids

A HAUL of \$2.7 million worth of illegal cigarettes has been uncovered during a four-month long operation in Melbourne's west.



VIC News

Smokers opt for cheap but illegal tobacco

THE tobacco black market is now costing taxpayers more than \$1 billion as smokers balk at the price of legal cigarettes and smugglers cash in.



NSW

Over \$1.35 billion up in illegal smoke

ILLEGAL tobacco is booming across Australia with a 30 per cent increase in black market trade in the past two years, a new report has found.

Facts point to the success of plain packaging
WITH smoking rates continuing to fall, who would want to attack life-saving legislation? The answer is Australia's Big Tobacco industry.

Tobacco gangs push black market
THERE must be an investigation into an underground tobacco trade operated by criminal gangs, writes Chris Argent.

Don't butt in over free choice
A ban on selling cigarettes will not work, writes Andrew Gregson.

Tasmania
The world's eyes are on us
TASMANIA is pushing ahead with a plan to ban tobacco to everyone born from 2000.

Quit slams tobacco report
QUIT Victoria has labelled a tobacco industry survey citing a doubling of illegal tobacco on the streets of Geelong as a smokescreen.

Law & Order
Fine blitz on illegal tobacco sales
AS 71 tonnes of illegal tobacco and 80 million seized cigarettes are about to go up in smoke, the state has declared war on illegal smokes

Cairns high in illegal smoke trade
A SURVEY of cigarettes around the city has found Cairns has one of the largest illegal cigarette black markets in Australia.

National
Police smash Syd organised crime syndicate
Police smash Syd organised crime syndicate
▶ 02:45

National
Illegal tobacco import operation busted
Illegal tobacco import operation busted
▶ 01:15

National
ABF arrests five, dismantles tobacco smuggling ring
▶ 05:03

filters ▼

Type

- All
- Article
- Audio
- Video

Time

- Anytime
- Past Day
- Past Week
- Past Month
- Past Year

Brand

- All
- Adelaide Now
- Courier Mail
- Daily Telegraph
- The Herald Sun
- News.com.au



National

RAW: First ever illegal tobacco crop seizure in NT



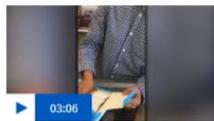
National

Five men charged over multi-million dollar tobacco smuggling



National

Hundreds of police raid Sydney crime syndicates



National

Aussie tobacco black market



Have your say: Are drugs and vapes a problem in our schools?

Data released by the Queensland government shows the number of suspensions handed to students caught with drugs or tobacco products has doubled since 2020 and we are inviting parents and guardians to have their say on substance abuse in school.



Parklea jail officer charged with trying to smuggle drugs in undies

A Corrective Services officer accused of smuggling illicit drugs and tobacco into Parklea jail has been named. Police allege he was caught with contraband in his underwear.



National Breaking News

World No Tobacco Day not just about health

THE spotlight is being shone on the health risks of smoking as well as the illicit trade in tobacco on Sunday's World No Tobacco Day.



National

Problem is 'only going to become bigger': Government should 'get serious' about vaping

AACS CEO Theo Foukare says the vaping "problem is only going to become bigger" as issues continue to rise with it being sold unregulated, and...



NSW

What John Ibrahim is really worth

THIS is the real John Ibrahim — two years older than he has always claimed, and a whole lot richer than anyone could have imagined, complete with a multimillion-dollar property portfolio across Sydney worth up to \$52 million.



National

Tobacco, cigarettes seizure and arrests in Melbourne by Australian Border Force

Tobacco, cigarettes seizure and arrests in Melbourne by Australian Border Force

Law & Order

More illegal tobacco seized than all illicit drugs

SEIZURES of illegal tobacco have outweighed hauls of all illicit drugs in Australia this year, with almost 14,000kg intercepted.

Tobacco tax increases creating illicit market say retailers

Retailers say the government needs to tackle the illicit market in order to reduce smoking rates.

Police seize \$80k cash, illegal tobacco from Seven Hills home

A police raid on a Seven Hills home and a business in Blacktown has allegedly uncovered \$80,000 in cash and hundreds of boxes of illegally imported tobacco.

National Breaking News

Push to ban smoking in NSW jails

ALL prisoners in NSW may be forced to kick the habit if a plan to ban smoking in jails goes ahead - but it could throw up new problems.

North West

Tobacconist faces court for smuggling illicit cigarettes

A tobacconist who fled war-inflicted Iraq smuggled thousands in illicit cigarettes, selling them from two different shopfronts.

Herald Sun

Andrew Bolt Elog Posts

If the media class was as down on illicit drugs as it was on legal tobacco

National

Illegal tobacco trade 'through the roof' as Australia hikes cigarette taxes

▶ 03:47 Sky News host Caleb Bond says Australia's illegal tobacco market is going "through the roof" as the government raises taxes on cigarettes.

National

Tradies, teachers, cops: New faces of Aussie drug addicts

Australia has a problem with drug addiction with almost half the population having tried illicit substances, but when they try to seek help, it's not there.

Gold Coast

Gold Coast Health prosecutes Macca's boss over illicit nicotine

A McDonald's manager has been dragged before a court charged with obtaining and possessing a regulated poison - nicotine for vaping. Here's how it happened.

Crime In Focus

Melburnians can't smoke but they can shoot up, go figure

Nicotine addicts can't smoke but drug addicts can go to an injecting room. We are losing the war on drugs, writes Ellen Whinnett.

Filters [Clear](#)

Type

- All
- Article
- Audio
- Video

Time

- Anytime
- Past Day
- Past Week
- Past Month
- Past Year

Brand

- All
- Adelaide Now
- Courier Mail
- Daily Telegraph
- The Herald Sun
- News.com.au



Prison guard smuggled tobacco, drugs into jail

A western Sydney man smuggled contraband into a western Sydney correctional centre because he feared for his family's safety.



Ibrahim nephew spared prison over tobacco syndicate

Michael Ibrahim's nephew Hasan, and his brother Abraham, have both been spared prison for standing guard at a warehouse full of black market smokes.



SA News

Stash goes up in smoke as black market busted

Prisoners were stockpiling tobacco, ready to make a huge profit when smoking was banned. But guards have thwarted the plan.



Education

Teens ditch booze, cigarettes for sedatives

Australian students are increasingly turning their backs on alcohol and cigarettes but instead are opting to take tranquilisers for recreational use, as one in five secondary school kids admit to taking sleeping tablets without a medical reason.



Tasmania

Plea for action over booze harm

TASMANIA needs a "reinvigorated approach" to addressing alcohol harm — a bigger challenge for the state than ice, says the Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council.



SA News

Fury as 'drug-smoking' koala mural painted over

AN Adelaide council has ordered a mural on the side of a home showing animals smoking 'illicit drugs' be removed, upsetting the artist who claims they're just smoking tobacco. HAVE YOUR SAY



WA News

Take leaf from tobacco in war on drugs

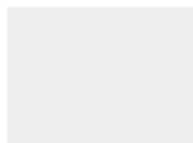
WORKING on changing attitudes and the social acceptance of cigarettes has gradually won the day. Compare this to the war on illegal drugs.



Northern Territory

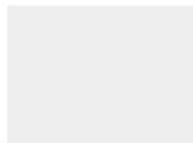
Tobacco contraband of choice for prisoners

TOBACCO has become a more valuable contraband than illicit drugs among Territory prisoners since smoking in jails was banned two years ago.



Asbestos and faeces found in fake ciggies

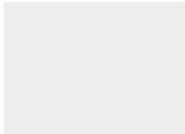
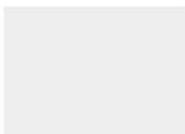
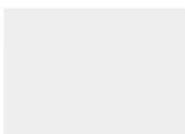
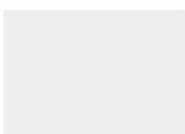
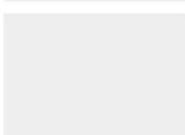
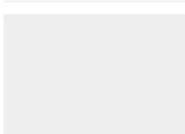
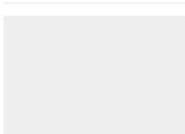
A series of raids have highlighted Australia's thriving tobacco smuggling industry, where \$1 packs from Asia - sometimes containing faeces - are commonplace.



Tasmania

15kg of coke, gun caches: 2000 seizures by ABF in Tassie this year

It has been a bumper year of crime fighting for Tasmania's Australian Border Force officers, who have seized tobacco, pharmaceuticals, guns and drugs. This is how they did it.

	<p>Geelong</p> <p>Councils join vaping crackdown</p> <p>On-site education visits to retailers target the sale of tobacco and e-cigarette products to those under the age of 18.</p>
	<p>Gold Coast</p> <p>What drug runners attempt to sneak across the border</p> <p>Queensland's strictest border restrictions are no deterrent for alleged drug runners determined to smuggle product across state lines.</p>
	<p>Named and shamed: NSW's drug offenders exposed</p> <p>From international syndicate lords to crims trying to make a quick buck, these are the drug offenders named and shamed in 2020.</p>
	<p>Truckie who works at jail allegedly smuggled goods in for inmates</p> <p>A Corrective Services truck driver has been charged after he was allegedly caught smuggling hunting knives, prescription medication and tobacco into a jail in Sydney's north west.</p>
	<p>Smoking still kills: Older addicts just don't get it</p> <p>Research shows that when it comes to saying "no" to tobacco, it's our younger generation who are getting the message, while older smokers are still reluctant to quit.</p>
	<p>VIC News</p> <p>'Risky' marijuana plan comes under fire</p> <p>MEDICAL experts say the Greens' controversial marijuana legalisation plan makes little sense at a time when governments were still trying to limit the use of tobacco and alcohol. HAVE YOUR SAY</p>
	<p>Letters to the Editor, January 22, 2018</p> <p>IN Letters to the Editor today: City Deal is all talk and no action, there's not enough loos at The Springs, and time to get tough on tobacco.</p>
	<p>At Work</p> <p>Border Force officer charged over drug ring</p> <p>AN Australian Border Force officer has been arrested over an alleged international tobacco ring operating between Sydney and Dubai.</p>
	<p>VIC News</p> <p>Inmates smuggle drugs in dirty laundry</p> <p>A MELBOURNE prison crime ring has been busted smuggling in drugs, tech gear and tobacco via old folks' home laundry.</p>
	<p>Illness</p> <p>'It's only a matter of time'</p> <p>AN addiction expert believes banning inmates from smoking could turn tense, crowded Australian jails into mayhem and violence.</p>

Filters [Clear](#)

Type

- All
- Article
- Audio
- Video

Time

- Anytime
- Past Day
- Past Week
- Past Month
- Past Year

Brand

- All
- Adelaide Now
- Courier Mail
- Daily Telegraph
- The Herald Sun
- News.com.au



Tassie's anti-smoking strategy lauded

ADRIAN Reynolds was uplifted by the reaction from health experts at a major conference in Abu Dhabi.



Youth must butt out

The notion of "choice" to smoke tobacco is balderdash, and the industry clings to it like Super Glue.



FACE & BODY

Smoker? Your future is not pretty

WE ALL know smoking is bad for your health. But have you seen what it does to your face? This is what Rachael Finch would look like if she were a smoker. Disturbing images ahead.



FACE & BODY

Smoker? Your future is not pretty

WE ALL know smoking is bad for your health. But have you seen what it does to your face? This is what Rachael Finch would look like if she were a smoker. Disturbing images ahead.



Law & Order

Illegal cigarettes run hot across city

"DRESS down" was the instruction when the Herald Sun went shopping for illegal tobacco last week.



VIC News

How drug dealers are now targeting our children

Synthetic drugs were outlawed in 2017 but despite the ban these drugs are still freely available at many city adult shops and tobacconists —and even on social media — and they are causing mayhem in the CBD.



Police & Courts

Attempt to smuggle 300kg of meth into Melbourne in surfboards

Two men from Melbourne's south east are facing life behind bars after police allege they attempted to smuggle 300kg of meth into the city, hidden inside surfboards.



Police & Courts

Tim Smith, Will Fowles water down the wine at Scotch College

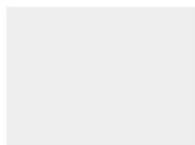
Scotch College has produced a list of political powerhouses the likes of Cain and Kennett, but in recent years its contribution to Victorian parliament has been a bit of a car crash.



North West

White collar crims caught breaking the law

In a world of professionals who embody integrity and excellence, there exists a shadowy underbelly of individuals who have recently been making headlines for all the wrong reasons.



Cairns

217 suburbs where illegal vaping operators do roaring trade | MAP

Southeast Queensland's vaping black market is unlikely to be stubbed out under proposed new federal laws, according to research from one of the country's peak retail associations. Check the map of suburbs where illegal traders are operating.

	<p>Police & Courts</p> <p>How police brought down burgeoning crime empire</p> <p>The dismantling of underworld heavyweight George Marrog's crime empire has been lauded as one of the biggest police success stories.</p>
	<p>Victoria</p> <p>Where each Vic region stands on legalising drugs</p> <p>Support for legalising weed is higher depending on where you live, while some Victorians want ecstasy and cocaine to be legal.</p>
	<p>Doc goes off script to help smokers</p> <p>Could vaping be the key to giving up smoking for good? A Sydney GP thinks so and he wants to tell you why.</p>
	<p>NAMED: 10 Whitsunday drivers face court for drink or drug-driving</p> <p>This week's round-up of Whitsunday drink or drug-drivers includes a self-described 'silly boy', a 27 year old too 'old' for any more trouble with drugs, and a saleswoman who quite enjoyed her New Year's Eve ride to the police station. See the full list.</p>
	<p>Man charged over \$8m of illegal cigarettes in sea cargo</p> <p>A 32-year-old man has been charged after ABF officers found 800 hidden boxes of cigarettes in sea cargo at Port Botany.</p>
<p>Herald Sun</p>	<p>Entrepreneur caught with drugs in small CQ town</p> <p>Police located the drug in the persons vehicle after being pulled over on the main road.</p>
	<p>Crime in Focus</p> <p>Real reason why baby formula is being stripped off Aussie shelves</p> <p>It's the act that infuriates Australian shoppers – store shelves stripped bare of baby formula being shipped to China. But the reason why is far more sinister than feeding babies.</p>
	<p>Port Adelaide</p> <p>Cornes: Jack's demons are all on the outside</p> <p>It's time to stop the demonisation of Port Adelaide's Jack Watts, an affable young man and a talented footballer, whose reputation has been stigmatised but whose only apparent 'crime' is poor judgment.</p>
	<p>Rendezview</p> <p>Demonising drug users doesn't help them, or us</p> <p>WE don't need a war on drugs. Reducing the damage done by drug and alcohol abuse is only effective if we deal with the demand, writes Michael White.</p>
	<p>NSW</p> <p>Crime crackdown: Haul in the family</p> <p>POLICE claim they have taken out the top echelon of a sophisticated crime syndicate spanning two continents and locked up the allegedly crooked customs officials who let them flourish.</p>

Filters [Clear](#)

Type

- All
- Article
- Audio
- Video

Time

- Anytime
- Past Day
- Past Week
- Past Month
- Past Year

Brand

- All
- Adelaide Now
- Courier Mail
- Daily Telegraph
- The Herald Sun
- News.com.au



Law & Order

Prison guards stop drug smuggle

PRISONERS have smuggled hundreds of contraband items including knives, drugs and alcohol into jails across Victoria in a two-month period.



Tasmania

Smokers willing to break law

ONE in three Tasmanians would buy cigarettes online from interstate if smoking restrictions were tightened.



Federal Election

Crime proceeds to pay back debt under Labor

CASH and assets seized from crooks would be used to pay back Australia's debt instead of funding police taskforces if Labor wins the election



VIC News

\$3.4m to help prisoners stop smoking

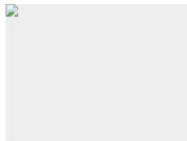
TAXPAYERS have spent \$3.4 million on nicotine patches, lozenges, counselling and other programs to help prisoners kick their cigarette habits since smoking bans were introduced in Victorian prisons.



VIC News

Why gambling is a problem in the AFL

IT'S no secret that gambling is a big issue among AFL players. But why do so many of them do it? Chris Judd has an interesting theory.



Letters to the Editor, April 30

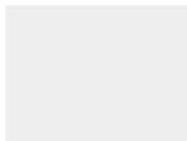
TODAY readers discuss the executions by firing squad of Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran.



NSW

It's high time to end drug culture

DAYS after Philip Seymour Hoffman died, Hollywood was putting up giant billboards spruiking its drug-glamourising Oscar prospect Wolf Of Wall Street.



Police & Courts

Bikie allegedly threatened to bite off cops' noses

During a wild confrontation with police outside a Fitzroy nightclub, a Bandidos bikie allegedly threatened to bite their noses off.



National

Vietnames cabin crew arrested for mass drug importation



National

Eight arrested over tobacco, drug syndicate in Sydney's south-west

Eight men have been arrested after anti-terror police uncovered an illicit tobacco syndicate in Sydney's south-west. Police allege the group...