

Item 13.4**Notices of Motion****Supporting the Tobacco Legislation (Closure Orders) Amendment Bill 2025**

By Councillor Gannon

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) for every McDonald's in NSW there are 60 tobacconists;
- (ii) over the past few years our high streets have been transformed with the proliferation of tobacconists, which unashamedly sell illegal tobacco and e-cigarettes. There are 13 now operating in Kings Cross alone;
- (iii) data on the availability of illicit tobacco in Australia is limited. Industry estimates indicate that illicit tobacco consumption accounted for 28.6% of the total tobacco market in Australia in 2023, up from 11.8% in 2012;
- (iv) what we do know is that tobacco excise collection has collapsed to its lowest level in 14 years, blowing a \$17.6 billion hole in the tax base (excluding GST revenue);
- (v) illegal cigarettes are as cheap as \$12; the average cost of regulated tobacco is around \$50;
- (vi) in response to this the State Opposition introduced a Bill 'Public Health (Tobacco) Amendment (Stopping Illicit Tobacco) Bill 2025' to address the exponentially increasing problem with illicit tobacco; and
- (vii) on 11 September 2025 the NSW Parliament passed legislation that is a critical step in addressing illegal tobacco in NSW:
 - (a) the Bill contains: fines of up to \$1.5 million, prison terms of up to 7 years, and forced closures of businesses that sell illicit tobacco and/or e-cigarettes; and
 - (b) the Bill also grants the Secretary of the Ministry of Health and the Local Court power to order the closure of premises that are involved in the sale of illicit tobacco and vapes; and

- (B) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the NSW Premier to affirm the City's support for this legislation and request a compliance blitz in the City of Sydney.

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