



Report on significant interactions between the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and the tobacco industry

About this report

As part of Australia’s obligations under [Article 5.3 of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control](#), the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (the department) only interacts with the tobacco industry where necessary to ensure that our regulation is effective. Where any significant interactions between the department and the tobacco industry do occur, they are published in this report.

This report includes any significant interactions between the department and the tobacco industry that have taken place since 2016. You can find previous reports on the [National Library of Australia’s government web archive](#).

Where necessary, the department engages with industry through avenues that are not considered ‘significant’ - this may include as part of routine administration of relevant legislation, regulatory compliance, formal notification pathways and responses to Ministerial or departmental correspondence and complaints.

This report is part of a collection: [Guidance for public officials on interacting with the tobacco industry](#).

Date range	Type of interaction(s)	Who was involved	What was it about
15 November 2024	Virtual meetings, managed by Allen and Clarke consulting	• Departmental representatives • British American Tobacco Australia Limited • Imperial Tobacco Australia Limited • Philip Morris Limited • Richland Express Pty Limited	On 11 November 2024, Allen and Clarke Consulting sent an email inviting the four tobacco companies that provided written submissions to the targeted consultation (in October-November 2024) to individual meetings with the department on 15 November 2024. The department undertook virtual meetings with the four tobacco companies, regarding the contents of their submissions to further understand implementation considerations regarding the draft Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Amendment (On-Product Health Messages and Other Measures) Regulations 2024. Allen and Clarke Consulting attended the interviews as an observer.
30 October – 29 November 2024	Written consultation submissions, managed by Allen and Clarke consulting	• British American Tobacco Australia Limited • Imperial Tobacco Australia Limited • Philip Morris Limited • Richland Express Pty Limited • Scandinavian Tobacco Group Australia Pty Limited • TabSol Australasia Pty Ltd	Allen and Clarke Consulting, on behalf of the department, conducted a targeted consultation with 5 tobacco companies on the draft Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Amendment (On-Product Health Messages and Other Measures) Regulations 2024. Submissions were received from British American Tobacco Australia Limited, Imperial Tobacco Australia Limited, Philip Morris Limited and Richland Express Pty Limited. No submission was received by Scandinavian Tobacco Group Australia Pty Limited. Separately, on 15 November, TabSol Australasia Pty Ltd contacted the department for further information regarding the draft Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Amendment (On-Product Health Messages and Other Measures) Regulations 2024. Subsequently, TabSol Australasia Pty Ltd was then included in the targeted consultation with Allen and Clarke Consulting. Due to the inclusion of commercial-in-confidence information, the submissions received during the targeted consultation cannot be published. The targeted consultation was undertaken in parallel to a public consultation which was open from 30 October – 8 November 2024. No submissions to the public consultation were received from industry.
July 2024 – February 2025	Email consultation	• Stakeholders including tobacco companies, importers, distributors, and suppliers.	Correspondence about the administration of the Business Surrender Scheme for vaping goods.

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12 December 2023 – 8 January 2024	Email consultation, managed by Allen and Clarke consulting	- Philip Morris Limited - British American Tobacco Australia Limited - Imperial Brands Australasia - Izama Pty Ltd and TABAKU Store Pty Ltd - Retail Enterprise Group - Jones Retail Group - Ritchies Stores Pty Ltd - Alexanders Cigars Merchants of Toorak	In parallel to the public consultation on the draft Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Regulations 2023, a targeted consultation was conducted on the implementation of the regulatory requirements relating to health warnings and health promotion inserts. On 12 December 2023, Allen and Clarke Consulting, on behalf of the department, sent emails to 24 industry stakeholders. Responses were received from the eight listed industry stakeholders.
11 December 2023 – 8 January 2024	Written consultation submissions	- Stakeholders including tobacco companies, importers, distributors, and suppliers. - Scandinavian Tobacco Group A/S - Smokemart - TSG Franchise Management / TSG George Town - Tobacco Station Spencer Park / Parkes / Maryborough	The department received written submissions from tobacco companies, importers, distributors and suppliers following an online open public call for written submissions on the draft Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Regulations 2023.
7 – 21 September 2023	Webinars, video conferences, and written survey responses	All major stakeholder groups were invited to participate including government organisations, consumer groups, public health experts and organisations and industry stakeholders (including tobacco companies, importers, distributors, and suppliers).	The TGA conducted a targeted consultation on proposed reforms to the regulation of vapes in Australia. The consultation summarised the proposed approach and sought specific feedback about proposals to: - prohibit the importation, manufacture and supply of all vapes unless for therapeutic use in compliance with the <i>Therapeutic Goods Act 1989</i> (TG Act). - strengthen the regulation of therapeutic vapes by introducing pre-market notification requirements for unapproved vapes and facilitating legitimate patient access. - strengthen the minimum quality standards set out in TGO 110, including on e-liquid and device components. - enhance domestic compliance and enforcement mechanisms to facilitate effective implementation of the vaping reforms. Written submissions (except where the relevant author has not given consent) have been published and are now available at: Proposed reforms to the regulation of vapes - Therapeutic Goods Administration - Citizen Space (tga.gov.au).
19 – 20 June 2023	Face to face consultation sessions managed by Allen and Clarke Consulting	- Richland Express Pty Limited - Philip Morris Limited - Imperial Tobacco Australia Limited - British American Tobacco Australia Limited - TabSol Australia - Cignall Tobacconist - Australian Lottery and Newsagents Association - Coles Supermarkets - Master Grocers Association Entities that did not accept invites or were unable to attend are not listed.	Allen and Clarke Consulting, on behalf of the department, conducted face to face consultation sessions with tobacco companies, importers, distributors, franchise heads and suppliers in relations to the exposure draft of the Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Bill 2023 and the Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Consequential and Transitional Bill 2023, and their relevant Regulations.
31 May – 14 July 2023	Written consultation submissions	Stakeholders including tobacco companies, importers, distributors, and suppliers	The department received written submissions from tobacco companies, importers, distributors and suppliers following an online open public call for written submissions following the exposure draft of the Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Bill 2023 and the Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Consequential and Transitional Bill 2023, and their relevant Regulations.
30 November 2022 – 16 January 2023	Written consultation submissions	Stakeholders including tobacco companies, importers, distributors and suppliers	The TGA received written submissions from tobacco companies, importers, distributors and suppliers following an online open public call for written submissions to inform potential reforms to the regulation of nicotine vaping products in Australia. Written submissions (except where the relevant author has not given consent) have been published and are now available at: Published responses for Proposed reforms to the regulation of nicotine vaping products - Therapeutic Goods Administration - Citizen Space.

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10 February – 24 March 2022	Written consultation submissions	- British American Tobacco Australia Limited - Philip Morris Limited	The department received written submissions from British American Tobacco Australia Limited and Philip Morris Limited following a public call for written submissions to inform the development of the next National Tobacco Strategy (NTS). Written submissions (except where the relevant author has not given consent) have been published and are now available at: Published responses for National Tobacco Strategy 2022-2030 - Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care - Citizen Space.
17 February - 31 March 2021	Written consultation submissions	Tobacco industry stakeholders	The TGA received written submissions from tobacco companies, importers, distributors and suppliers following an online open public call for written submissions to inform options for regulatory reform on minimum safety and quality requirements for nicotine vaping products. The TGA has published all written submissions (where consent was given to publish the response) received and is available on the TGA website at: TGO 110 – Standard for Vaporiser Nicotine - Consultation - Therapeutic Goods Administration - Citizen Space (tga.gov.au).
23 September – 12 November 2020	Written consultation submissions	Tobacco industry stakeholders	The TGA received written submissions from tobacco companies, importers, distributors and suppliers following an online open public call for written submissions to inform options for regulation of nicotine. The TGA has published all written submissions (where consent was given to publish the response) received and is available on the TGA website at: Notice of an interim decision to amend the current Poisons Standard in relation to nicotine - Joint ACMS-ACCS meeting, June 2020 - Therapeutic Goods Administration - Citizen Space (tga.gov.au).
November 2019	Application to amend the Poisons Standard	Philip Morris Limited	The department received an application on 1 November 2019 from Philip Morris Limited to amend the Poisons Standard, to exempt heated tobacco products from Schedule 7. Public consultation on this proposal was open from 20 December 2019 to 10 February 2020. The Joint Meeting of the Advisory Committee of Medicines and Chemicals Scheduling (ACMS/ACCS) considered the proposal on 11 March 2020. Philip Morris Limited also requested an opportunity to present at the ACMS/ACCS March 2020 meeting. This request was not granted. A final decision not to amend the scheduling of nicotine in the Poisons Standard was published on 24 August 2020 on the TGA website: Scheduling decisions (final) Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).
4 March 2019	Meeting	- Departmental representatives - Imperial Tobacco Australia Limited - Philip Morris Limited	Meeting conducted regarding the Tobacco Plain Packaging Amendment (Track and Trace Identifiers) Regulations 2018 — background colour of the unique identifier adhesive label for secondary packaging.
18 January – 18 March 2019	Written consultation submissions	Stakeholders including tobacco companies, importers, distributors and suppliers	The department received written submissions from tobacco companies, importers, distributors and suppliers following an online open public call for written submissions on Australia's tobacco control legislation to make sure that it is effective and fit for purpose. Written submissions (except where the relevant author has not given consent) have been published and are now available at: Published responses for Review of Tobacco Control Legislation - Update - Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care - Citizen Space.
14 November 2018	Meeting	- Departmental representatives - Imperial Tobacco Australia Limited	Tobacco plain packaging requirements and compliance with the European Union (EU) requirements for a track and trace unique identifier to be placed on tobacco product packaging from May 2019.
18 October 2018	Consultation	- Importers of tobacco products from the EU - Tobacco companies	Consultation feedback sought on a proposed amendment to the Tobacco Plain Packaging Regulations 2011 to address new EU requirements for a track and trace unique identifier to be placed on tobacco products including those being exported to Australia from May 2019.

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9 July – 17 August 2018	Written consultation submissions	- British American Tobacco Australia Limited - Philip Morris Limited	The department received written submissions from British American Tobacco Australia Limited and Philip Morris Limited following a public call for written submissions to inform the development of the next National Tobacco Strategy (NTS). https://www.health.gov.au/committees-and-groups/ministerial-drug-and-alcohol-forum-mdaf Written submissions (except where the relevant author has not given consent) have been published and are now available at: Published responses for Consultation for initial drafting of the National Tobacco Strategy 2022-2030 - Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care - Citizen Space.
18 July 2018	Meeting	- Departmental representatives - Richland Express Pty Limited	Tobacco plain packaging requirements and compliance with EU requirements for a track and trace unique identifier to be placed on tobacco product packaging from May 2019.
2 May 2017	Meeting	Illicit Tobacco Industry Advisory Group: - Alliance of Australian Retailers - Australian Competition and Consumer Commission - Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission - Australian Retailers Association - Australian Taxation Office - British American Tobacco Australia Limited - Department of Immigration and Border Protection (chair) - Departmental representatives - Imperial Tobacco Australia Limited - Philip Morris Limited - Richland Express Pty Limited - Treasury	Illicit trade in tobacco products.
6 October 2016	Meeting	- British American Tobacco Australia Limited - Departmental representatives	Tobacco plain packaging requirements, compliance matters and graphic health warnings.
7 September 2016	Meeting	- Departmental representatives - Imperial Tobacco Australia Limited	Tobacco plain packaging compliance.
5 February 2016	Meeting	Illicit Tobacco Industry Advisory Group: - Alliance of Australian Retailers - Australian Competition and Consumer Commission - Australian Crime Commission - Australian Taxation Office - British American Tobacco Australia Limited - Department of Immigration and Border Protection (chair) - Departmental representatives - Imperial Tobacco Australia Limited - Philip Morris Limited - Treasury	Illicit trade in tobacco products.