

Transcript

Station: **2GB** Date: **21/11/2008**
 Program: **BREAKFAST** Time: **09:50 AM**
 Compere: **ALAN JONES** Summary ID: **S00032841510**
 Item: **DISCUSSIONS ON A LAW THAT HAS BEEN PASSED THAT MEANS THAT YOU CAN SELL TOBACCO, BUT NOT HAVE IT ON DISPLAY.**

INTERVIEW: CALLER DAVID

Demographics:	Male 16+	Female 16+	All people	ABs	GBs
	43000	51000	94000	12000	61000

ALAN JONES: David, good morning.

CALLER DAVID: Good morning, Alan.

ALAN JONES: Yes. You wrote to me didn't you, David?

CALLER DAVID: I did indeed, about the tobacco issues in New South Wales.

ALAN JONES: Yes, you're a small businessmen?

CALLER DAVID: Well I represent small businesses. I actually represent - I run an association which is the Australasian Association of Convenience Stores.

ALAN JONES: Right.

CALLER DAVID: We represent obviously, convenience store operators, but on this issue we're also representing all the newsagents and milk bars...

ALAN JONES: Yes.

CALLER DAVID: ...[indistinct].

ALAN JONES: And this is State Government legislation which was passed at the end of last month where, as I understand it, the argument is that you can sell tobacco products, but you're not allowed to be able to see them.

CALLER DAVID: Well that's what the law says now, and it's not been proclaimed yet, but apparently it's been passed and [indistinct].

ALAN JONES: So a small corner shop or whatever? They can sell this stuff, but the tobacco police will come and prosecute them if it is visible.

CALLER DAVID: That is the intention.

ALAN JONES: Now Tony Stewart was, at the time, the Minister for Small Business. You spoke to him about this?

CALLER DAVID: I did. I had a meeting with Tony Stewart, but unfortunately it was the day before he left his office. So, we've - Tony Stewart was pretty fair in the conversation. He offered to help us with regulations in the sense that the regulations would be what the police use, if you like...

ALAN JONES: Yes.

CALLER DAVID: ...to actually monitor how these businesses...

ALAN JONES: I should say I have a real problem with the legislation for one simple reason. Tobacco is a legal product. If you don't like tobacco, then governments - they like its money, but they're not interested in the small man getting any money from the selling of it, but they like the tax that they charge.

You know, if it's a legal product, why do there have to be all these draconian provisions about where it's placed in the stores and how it's sold? Now just to put it simply, this act of - it's called what, the Public Health Tobacco Bill is it?

CALLER DAVID: Yes...

ALAN JONES: ...it's not an act yet, will require businesses to store tobacco products in New South Wales out of the sight of consumers.

CALLER DAVID: Correct.

ALAN JONES: Well that will knock - I mean, I think you've made this point - that will knock the small corner shop out of business.

CALLER DAVID: Absolutely. I mean, the small corner shop, 40 per cent of its sales are tobacco sales and they're legal sales, and it's a legal product as you say. And there

are 12,000 outlets of this nature in New South Wales and there'll all going to be badly affected.

ALAN JONES: You spoke to Verity Firth, didn't you?

CALLER DAVID: I did first, yes.

ALAN JONES: And what did she say?

CALLER DAVID: Well she said that - in fact we had a private meeting in the sense that we had a couple of small retailers, myself and her and a couple of other people in the room, and she said that she'd take on board all our...

ALAN JONES: She was the local member?

CALLER DAVID: Well she was, yeah.

ALAN JONES: But Jodi McKay, this woman from Newcastle now has replaced Tony Stewart, and what - she had some adviser that told you the Government was determined to implement the bill and it wouldn't be modified?

CALLER DAVID: Correct. That's absolutely true.

ALAN JONES: Don't worry about you, you're just a representative of a small business.

CALLER DAVID: Just a small business. And, you know, the thing is, there are some other strange things that have

happened. When the original proposal came out, and we sent a submission in, they were saying, you know, we would not allow - they would not allow the sale of tobacco or to be the subject of a loyalty program, you know, like a Shop-A-Docket.

ALAN JONES: Yeah, yeah.

CALLER DAVID: Well now, after some lobbying by the big supermarkets, guess what, you know, Shop-A-Dockets are going to be allowed, they're going to - you can go to your supermarket, buy your tobacco products, get your points and head off down to the petrol station and get some discount off your fuel...

ALAN JONES: Okay, I'm not aware of that. Just hang on, this is just - this is out of hand. The Shop-A-Docket stuff is out of hand, that's it available to some and not available to others.

David, can I also put you back there?

CALLER DAVID: Sure.

ALAN JONES: And just give all that detail about Shop-A Dockets to me, would you?

CALLER DAVID: I will.

ALAN JONES: Unbelievable, and it's a legal product isn't it? What are we - who represents small business?



Jodi McKay, you better get your act together. Your job is to represent people, not to dictate to them.

* * **END** * *

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ABs = Managers, administrators, professions. GBs = Grocery buyers.
