



## **Senator Fraser Anning** **Senator for Queensland**

Date: September 18, 2018

### **Tobacco laws about property rights not smoking**

Queensland Katter's Australian Party Senator, Fraser Anning, today gave an impassioned speech calling for the return of property rights and intellectual property to tobacco companies.

Senator Anning moved the amendment which seeks to ensure that the property rights expropriated by the original Tobacco Plain Packaging Act 2011 are restored.

*"On the pretext of discouraging smoking, the former Labor government legislated to destroy the private property of tobacco manufacturers - brand equity built up over many years."*

*"Given that tobacco remains a perfectly legal product this was an unheard of and outrageous attack on private property,"* Senator Anning said.

*"The real issue is that in destroying brand equity and dictating packaging, the Tobacco Plain Packaging Act actually took away the property rights of the manufacturer,"* Senator Anning continued.

*"The nature of this kind of legislation is absolutely insidious, once the principle is established that private property can be expropriated at the discretion of the government, the only question becomes which group of property owners will have their rights trampled on next."*

*"If the government is allowed to get away with destroying the brand equity and dictating how it is packaged of one perfectly legal product, it is only a matter of time before it does so with something else."* Senator Anning said.

*"How long will it be before some left-wing do-gooder decides that we need "plain packaging" of alcohol and we find nauseating images of diseased livers on every beer bottle?"*

*"This is why I have moved my amendment to require the consent of tobacco companies for plain packaging. Because as long as it's a legal product, it should be up to the manufacturer how it is packaged"*

*"What needs to be understood is that tobacco plain packaging act is not about smoking it's about undermining private property and if you believe in liberalism you should be utterly opposed to it."* Senator Anning concluded.

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