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**BRITISH AMERICAN  
TOBACCO**  
AUSTRALASIA

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## **BAT forced to close Australian factory**

British American Tobacco (BAT) today said that it will be closing its Australian manufacturing facility and move operations offshore in the third quarter of next year.

BAT has done everything possible to ensure the sustainability of the factory but due to external factors including the government's excise policy, local production is no longer viable.

This is a cost based decision. Due to rising production costs, growing competition from the black market and smokers looking for lower priced tobacco because of excise we've been forced to make this decision. Plain packaging was not a factor.

The Sydney factory has been reviewed numerous times and evolved for many years to keep it sustainable to the point where only a small number of brands remained in production here.

BAT spokesperson Scott McIntyre said our main priority is the impacted employees from the facility.

"This was a very tough decision but we will do all we can to support our employees to help them transition into a new job or in some cases retirement," said Mr McIntyre.

"BAT has the largest market share in the industry in Australia and will continue to produce high quality cigarettes and tobacco products made to world-class standards and processes.

"We will ensure that our brands will be manufactured to the same high standards and premium quality in our factories overseas, whilst keeping a strong presence in Australia."

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