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foot the bill for a bad Bill**

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MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 12 September 2011

Senate should stop bad law

British American Tobacco Australia (BATA) will tomorrow front a Senate inquiry into a key part of Minister Roxon's plain packaging laws.

The Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee will hear from legal experts on the validity of the Trade Marks Amendment (Tobacco Plain Packaging) Bill (TMA Bill).

BATA spokesperson Scott McIntyre said the fact an inquiry was needed showed that there were potential cracks in the Federal Government's plain packaging laws and called on Senators to scrap the TMA Bill.

"The TMA Bill needs to be thrown out as it relies on a band aid solution commonly known as a Henry VIII Clause which legal experts all around the world agree is bad law," Mr McIntyre said.

"Minister Roxon's obviously not confident her Tobacco Plain Packaging Bill will stand on its own two feet in court so she's tried to create a safety net in the TMA Bill.

"By drafting the Tobacco Plain Packaging Bill and the TMA Bill the way she has shows Minister Roxon is worried that the High Court could strike this law down and she is trying to sure up her legal position.

"Can Minister Roxon give a 100 per cent guarantee her plain packaging legislation won't end up costing taxpayers millions of dollars in legal fees and billions in compensation?

"It's now up to the Senate to clean up her mess and we hope they can see the obvious flaws with her law.

"Plain packaging is such a risky piece of legislation in so many ways. Unfortunately if it passes through the Senate we'll be taking the Federal Government to court to protect our valuable trade marks which are worth billions of dollars.

"Taxpayers would expect the Government to ensure their laws were water tight but we feel that in the case of plain packaging they leak like a sieve and that Minister Roxon is on shaky legal ground.

"Not only will plain packaging make organised crime gangs millions of dollars by making counterfeiting cigarettes easier, it will put billions of taxpayers' dollars at risk through a legal challenge from the tobacco industry."

Plain packaging is a risky piece of legislation that Senators should vote against due to the many serious consequences which it could cause including increased smoking rates.

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