

Illegal tobacco

Criminals profit. Your community pay.

What is illegal tobacco?

- Tobacco grown, manufactured or produced in Australia without a licence.
- Imported tobacco for which no duty has been paid.
- Tobacco sold without payment of taxes.



\$909 million
went to criminals instead of the community*

Growing tobacco in Australia for commercial sale or personal use is illegal.

*2019–20

Life cycle of illegal tobacco



Would you recognise a tobacco plant?

- 2.5 metres tall
- Large green leaves
- Long trumpet-shaped, white-pinkish flowers
- May resemble kale, cabbage or corn.

The ATO is part of the Illicit Tobacco Taskforce, which was established to detect, disrupt and dismantle serious organised crime syndicates that deal in illicit tobacco. Up to 30 June 2021 our results are:

> 496,000 kilograms **> \$571 million**

Seized and destroyed

Estimated excise value

Signs of an illegal growing operation

- Intense labour production between November and May
- People approaching real estate agents, landowners or farmers to lease land
- Unusual earthworks along creeks and rivers
- Unexplained and potentially unlawful use of water resources
- An unexplained strong tobacco odour
- Unusual source of loose tobacco

Let's cut illegal tobacco off at the root

- Report growing operations
- Stop buying illegal tobacco products
- Report illegal tobacco products being sold
- Report suspicious activity.

Phone **1800 060 062** to anonymously report suspicious activity.

Visit ato.gov.au/illegal-tobacco for more information.



Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office