

SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENTS POLICY

312

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the Waimate District Council's position towards the vision of a smoke-free New Zealand, and to implement protocols to encourage the realization of such a vision in the Waimate District. This policy contributes positively to the following elements of the Waimate District Community Outcomes, as outlined in the Waimate District Long Term Plan 2018-2028:

- Safe and Healthy People
- Sustainable District and Environment

2. Definition

For the purpose of this policy, the act of smoking denotes the use of products listed and defined below:

- **Electronic cigarettes:** e-cigarettes, e-cigars, vapour pens, or personal vapour, any product where there is a hand to mouth action and results in the expulsion of an aerosol-based or tobacco-based vapour.
- **Smoking products:** any tobacco product, cigarettes, cigars, smoking pipes, herbal cigarette, loose smoking blend, cigarette papers, etc.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all Council-owned areas, with the exception of the camping grounds' outdoor space, and its scope includes, but is not limited to, buildings, vehicles, swimming pools, playgrounds, parks and reserves, and sports grounds.

4. Relevant Legislation

An amendment in 2003 to the Smoke-free Environments Act 1990 banned smoking in the buildings and grounds of schools and early childhood centres, licensed premises (bars, restaurants, cafes, sports clubs, casinos), and all other workplaces not previously covered. Relevant aspects of the amended Act are hereby summarized:

- the buildings and grounds of schools and early childhood centres became smoke-free from 1 January 2004;
- licensed premises (bars, restaurants, cafes, sports clubs, casinos) became smoke-free indoors from 10 December 2004;
- all other workplaces not already covered by the Smoke-free Environments Act became smoke-free indoors from 10 December 2004 – including offices, factories, warehouses, work canteens, and 'smoko' rooms;
- The provision of specified work vehicles is allowed for. An employer may permit smoking in a work vehicle provided that the public does not normally have access to the vehicle and the written consent of all regular users of the vehicle is obtained – otherwise the work vehicle must remain smoke-free. Ultimately it is up to the employer to decide whether they will allow smoking in work vehicles, even if the written consent of all users is obtained, the employer is within their rights to declare all work vehicles completely smoke-free.

In March 2011 the New Zealand Government committed to the goal of New Zealand becoming smoke-free by 2025. This came in response to a report from the Maori Affairs Select Committee following their inquiry in 2010 into the tobacco industry and the effects of tobacco on the Maori. The Government and the tobacco control sector's commitment to the goal of a smoke-free New Zealand by 2025 is further articulated by their desire:

- "that our children and grandchildren will be free from tobacco and enjoy tobacco free lives;
- that almost no-one will smoke (less than 5% of the population will be smokers);
- [that] it will be very difficult to sell or supply tobacco."

The *Smokefree Aotearoa 2025* action plan is focussed on three key areas: cessation, regulating and legislation, and public support. Responsibility and accountability for achieving the 2025 goal is to be shared between Government, health services, the tobacco control sector, and local communities.

Following the 2015 review of the Smoke-free Environments Policy, the Waimate District Council endorsed the Government's *Smokefree Aotearoa 2025* goal and committed itself to work collaboratively with stakeholders in promoting the initiative. As the result, all Council-run events will be promoted as smoke-free.

5. Key Areas of Applicability

5.1. Council-owned or Council-controlled Parks, Playgrounds, and Areas

All areas, parks, and children's playgrounds under Council control are designated by the Council as smoke-free. Appropriate signage should be erected asking the public to refrain from smoking. Such areas include, but are not limited to:

- Victoria Park and Playground
- Knottingley Park Playground
- Town Belt Playground
- Wilkin Street Playground
- Cameron Street Playground
- Boland Park- Skatepark and Playground
- Seddon Square
- Knottingley Park and Arboretum

5.2. Council-owned or Council-controlled Buildings and Properties

All Council workplaces and properties are smoke-free environments, including all Council vehicles. Such buildings include, but are not limited to:

- Rural Halls
- Community Housing
- Public Toilets
- Waimate Event Centre

5.3. Main Entranceways to Council-owned Buildings

The main entranceways to all Council-owned buildings are designated as smoke-free and signs will be used to encourage the public not to smoke in the immediate entranceway of the buildings. Such buildings include, but are not limited to:

- Waimate District Council and Library
- Waimate Event Centre

5.4. Council-owned or Council-controlled Sports Grounds

Such grounds include, but are not limited to:

- Knottingley Park – Cricket Oval
- St Andrews Domain – Oval
- Victoria Park – Netball Courts and Oval
- Manchester Park – Rugby Fields
- Waimate Swimming Pool Complex
- Glenavy Domain

5.5. Council-owned or Council-controlled Walkways and Cycleways

All Council-owned or Council-controlled walking and cycle tracks are designated smoke-free and signage will be used to indicate this.

5.6. Council Run Events

All Council-run events will be promoted as smoke-free.

6. Publication Details

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