

# Kaupapa Here Auahi Kore me te Rehu Kore ki ngā Wāhi Tūmatanui

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## Smokefree and Vapefree Public Places Policy

Person Responsible: Chief Executive  
Date Adopted: 3 April 2023  
Status: Current

Date Last Reviewed: 2015  
Next Review Date: April 2026  
Review Period: 3 years  
Revision Number: 2

## **Introduction**

The Council has a duty to improve, promote, and protect public health within its District, as stated in section 23 of the Health Act 1956. The Smoke-free Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990 aims to protect non-smokers, particularly children and young people, from the effects of smoking. It also aims to prevent the normalisation of vaping, discourage people from taking up smoking or vaping, encourage people to stop smoking or vaping and support smokers to switch to less harmful regulated products.

The Council will demonstrate leadership by promoting a smokefree/vapefree lifestyle as both desirable and the norm in South Taranaki. This supports the Government's vision of New Zealand being smoke-free by 2025.

## **Purpose of the Policy**

The Policy aims to provide more smokefree/vapefree environments and improve the health and wellbeing of South Taranaki residents by reducing the prevalence of smoking and vaping and the effects of smoking on non-smokers. Smokefree/vapefree messaging in Council-owned or controlled outdoor public places and facilities sends a positive message that people's health and the environment should be protected from the effects of smoking and vaping.

The Council aims to achieve its objective of discouraging smoking and vaping in public outdoor places without unduly infringing the ability of people to smoke or vape in outdoor public places if they want to. The Policy is voluntary and non-regulatory, and people can choose to comply in the spirit of promoting healthy lifestyle choices.

## **Outcomes**

This Policy aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Improved health and well-being by reducing exposure to second-hand smoke in public spaces.
- The visibility of smoking and vaping in public is reduced, particularly in the presence of children.
- There is increased awareness of and support for being smoke-free/vape-free.
- Smokers and vapers are clear about where they can and cannot smoke and vape.
- Public spaces are free of people smoking and vaping and smoking/vaping-related litter.
- Public spaces are increasingly used because they are smoke-free/vape-free.
- Smokers and vapers feel supported by their community to stop smoking/vaping.

## **Scope**

People are encouraged not to smoke or vape in the following Council owned or controlled **outdoor** public places in the South Taranaki District:

- Parks, gardens and reserves
- Sports grounds and courts, and swimming pool grounds
- Playgrounds

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- Bus passenger shelters
- The main entrances and exits of Council buildings and facilities such as offices, libraries, halls, pools and recreation centres
- Areas of footpaths licensed for outdoor dining
- Council-organised, supported or funded events

Areas that people associate with the Council will be prioritised.

Smoking in indoor public places is regulated by the [Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990](#).

The indoor areas of swimming pools are workplaces and smoking and vaping in these areas are therefore prohibited by section 5 of the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990.

## Alignment with Community Outcomes and Well-beings

The Policy will contribute to the following community outcomes and well-beings:

- Together South Taranaki (social well-being) – a District with healthy, safe, resilient, informed and connected people.
- Sustainable South Taranaki (environmental well-being) – a sustainable District that manages its resources in a way that preserves the environment for future generations.

## Definitions

**Council** means the South Taranaki District Council.

**Public Place**, for the purposes of this policy, means an outdoor place that is:

- a) Under the control of the Council; and
- b) Open to, or being used by, the public whether or not there is a charge for admission; and includes:
  - i) A road, whether or not the road is under the control of Council; and
  - ii) Any part of a public place; and
  - iii) Any reserve.

## Policy

### 1.0 Implementation

- 1.1 Implementation of the Policy takes a non-regulatory approach to supporting individual choices for leading healthy lifestyles. It uses smokefree/vapefree signage and messaging via the Council's website, social media, entry foyer and events screens and any other relevant communications channels.

## **2.0 Signage**

2.1 Signage to indicate smokefree/vapefree areas will be installed where it is considered to be appropriate and most effective. This may include Council-run events and events taking place on Council-owned land.

## **3.0 Information and Education**

3.1 The Council will work collaboratively with relevant partners to make sure that information relating to this policy and the health impacts of smoking and vaping are easily accessible to the community and communicated to the public.

## **4.0 Smokefree and vapefree public events**

4.1 Public events held at any Council outdoor public places are encouraged to be smokefree/vapefree.

4.2 If the Council contributes funding or other support for an event, the organisers will be encouraged to promote the event as smokefree/vapefree.

## **5.0 Enforcement**

5.1 This Policy does not ban smoking or vaping in public places. It aims to educate and encourage; it is self-policing and no action will be taken against those who do not comply. Compliance is entirely voluntary and will not be enforced by Council staff.

5.2 Businesses or organisations using Council-owned or controlled land, footpaths or facilities designated as smokefree/vapefree public places are encouraged to observe this policy. If they want to implement a smokefree/vapefree policy, they can contact the Smokefree organisation to access smoke-free/vape-free signs or stickers.

### **Related Legislation and Bylaws**

[Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990](#)

[Litter Act 1979](#)

[Public Places Bylaw \(2014\)](#)

[Public Swimming Pools Bylaw \(1992\)](#)

