

Smokefree and Vapefree Environment Policy

May 2022



Introduction

The purpose of the Smokefree and Vapefree Environment Policy is to support Horowhenua District Council's commitment to promote positive health outcomes for our community.

Council recognises that exposure to second-hand tobacco and vaping smoke is a significant health risk and has adopted a "Smokefree and Vapefree" Policy in accordance with the provisions of the Smoke Free Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990 (the Act) and the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Vaping) Amendment Act 2020. The Government has committed to a goal of less than 5% smoking nationwide by 2025. By focusing on public outdoor areas and supported events, Horowhenua District Council will be proactive and demonstrate leadership by promoting a Smokefree and Vapefree environment as being both desirable and the norm in Horowhenua.

Policy Objectives

The Council, in collaboration with partner organisations, will work towards achieving the following objectives:

- Improve the health and wellbeing of Horowhenua's communities by reducing the prevalence of smoking and vaping and de-normalising smoking behaviour.
- Fewer people smoke and vape in public places.
- Businesses and other organisations designate their premises "Smokefree and Vapefree".
- The prevalence of smoking and vaping in Horowhenua continues to decrease over time.

Application

The Policy intends to educate the public and send a positive message to the Horowhenua community that our people's health and the environment should be protected from the effects of smoking and vaping.

The public will be encouraged through appropriate signage and publicity to maintain a clean, healthy environment in areas deemed smokefree and vapefree.

Policy Guidelines

Smokefree Environments

In order to prevent the detrimental effects of smoking and vaping on the health of any person who does not smoke or vape, or who does not wish to be exposed to second-hand smoke; this Policy outlines that:

The following Council-administered areas in Horowhenua District are designated smokefree and vapefree:

- **All outdoor facilities** including all stadiums, sports grounds, outdoor swimming pools and any other outdoor facilities.
- **All health centres** including all associated public outdoor areas.
- **All playgrounds and skate-parks**, including those not located within a park or reserve.
- **All sports fields** including associated spectator areas.
- **All parks, reserves and cemeteries** including all local and regional parks.
- The public outdoor areas associated with Horowhenua District Council **service centres, libraries, community facilities, museums, leisure centres and recreation centres**.
- **All transport areas** including bus stations, taxi ranks and train stations.

Under the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Vaping) Amendment Act 2020, the following places will also be smokefree and vapefree:

- **All early childhood centres, primary, and secondary schools** including all associated public outdoor areas and the footpath directly in front of the property boundary.

Council may, from time to time, by resolution specify any part or parts of the District as a smokefree or vapefree public place. This will be publically consulted before it takes effect.

All events run by Horowhenua District Council will be smokefree and vapefree, and any event supported or sponsored by Council will be encouraged to be smokefree and vapefree.

Education and Enforcement

The successful implementation and continued success of this Policy will require a collaborative approach to communication and education between Council and the wider community.

This Policy is educational and will be self-policing and supported by persuasion rather than punitive enforcement.

Council may take additional action in the case of a persistent issue.

Signage

Wherever practicable, the areas where smoking and vaping is prohibited will be signposted, to communicate smokefree and vapefree zones.

Council will engage with key smokefree and vapefree advocacy groups to promote a positive smokefree and vapefree message, and communicate the intent of the Policy through all media platforms to inform and educate the public.

Council will also engage with local food premises with outdoor dining about the benefits of having smokefree and vapefree outdoor areas. Practical support can be offered such as signage and posters to any willing businesses.

References

- Smoke-Free Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990 and Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Vaping) Amendment Act 2020
- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015