



# Horowhenua District Council Smokefree Environment Policy

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The purpose of this Policy is to convey Council's commitment to smoke-free environments in the Horowhenua District and to identify the places where smoking is prohibited.

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## **1. Introduction**

The purpose of the Smokefree Policy is to support Council's commitment to promote positive health outcomes; providing assets and services intended to be of benefit to the children and other members of the community.

### **1.1 Policy Objectives**

The specific objectives of the Policy are to:

- Improve the health and wellbeing of Horowhenua's communities by reducing the prevalence of smoking and de-normalising smoking behaviour.
- Protect Horowhenua's environment by decreasing risk of fire from cigarette butt litter and by reducing the amount of cigarette packet and butt litter that enters the environment.

### **1.2 Scope**

The Policy sets out:

- Council's position and commitment in relation to smokefree public places.
- Council's position and commitment in relation to smokefree public events.
- The nature and extent of Council's advocacy role.
- Recommendations for the implementation of the Policy.
- Council's position and commitment in relation to the Government's Goal of less than 5% smoking nationwide by 2025.

### **1.3 Guiding Principles**

The principles that underpin the policy are as follows:

1. The wellbeing of children and young people is a central consideration for the Policy.
2. The Policy should encourage behavioural change in a manner that is acceptable to and supported by Horowhenua's communities.
3. The Policy should aim to promote a positive smokefree message, especially to children and young people.
4. The Policy, guided by community opinion, should focus on creating smokefree public environments.

## 2. Policy Guidelines

### 2.1 Smokefree Environments

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

- The following public places will be smokefree:
  - **All outdoor facilities** including all stadiums, sports grounds, outdoor swimming pools and any other outdoor facilities.
  - **All early childhood centres, primary, and secondary schools**, including all associated public outdoor areas and the footpath directly in front of the property boundary.
  - **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 and train stations.
- Council may, from time to time, by resolution specify any part or parts of the District as a smokefree public place. This will be publically consulted before it takes effect.
- All events run by Horowhenua District Council will be smokefree, and any event supported or sponsored by Council will be encouraged to be smokefree.
- 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 environment as being both desirable and the norm in Horowhenua.

### 2.2 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.
- Any person who receives a request not to smoke is expected to respond cooperatively and courteously, and to comply with the request
- Council may take additional action in the case of a persistent issue.

### **2.3 Signage**

- Wherever practicable, the areas where smoking is prohibited will be signposted, to communicate smokefree zones.
- Council will continue to collaborate with key smokefree advocacy groups to promote a positive smokefree message, and communicate the intent of the Policy through the media including social media to educate the public.
- Council will speak to local food premises with outdoor dining about the benefits of having smokefree outdoor areas, and will also offer free resources, such as signage and posters to any willing businesses.

### **3. Monitoring and Implementation**

Horowhenua District Council will work with community organisations, Early Childhood Centres, Primary and Secondary Schools and the wider community to monitor compliance with the policy. A working party has been formed by the Community Wellbeing Executive to monitor the effectiveness of this Policy, and will continue to make alterations and/or extensions to the policy as required.

The policy will be reviewed every three years, or at the request of Council, or in response to changed legislative and statutory requirements, or in response to any further issues that may arise.