



Draft Smoke/Vape Free Open Spaces Policy 2023

Group responsible: Group Manager Infrastructure and Environmental Services

Date approved: XX XXXXX 2023

File no: R/23/6/26205

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

1. encourage the community to be smoke and vape free in Council's open spaces, and at Council supported events.
2. reduce the uptake of smoking and vaping by focusing awareness at places where children and young people gather.
3. support the government's goal for a Smoke Free New Zealand by 2025.

Scope

This policy is not a ban on smoking and vaping in Council's open spaces and no enforcement measures will be used against those who breach the policy. This is an educational tool to promote healthy, smoke and vape free lifestyle choices, particularly for our young people.

Council-owned enclosed spaces including Council offices, libraries and vehicles are excluded from this policy as they are covered as workplaces and vehicles under the Smoke-free Environments Act 1990.

Background

The Government's goal of a Smoke Free New Zealand is for less than 5% of New Zealanders to be smoking by 2025. This initiative seeks to support the health of communities and decrease the economic burden on our health system. Vaping is considered a tool to help achieve this smoke free goal but there has been a significant uptake of vaping amongst youth in recent years.

The Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990 (the Act) aims to make vaping products available for smokers who wish to quit smoking, whilst ensuring these products aren't marketed or sold to young people.

The Act focuses on enclosed public places and vehicles, and this policy seeks to support these community health goals by encouraging Council's open spaces to be smoke and vape free.

Focus areas

Although this policy covers all Council controlled open spaces and public areas, Type 1 areas will be the primary focus of Council resources. This will occur by way of additional signage and awareness initiatives. Signs will also be placed in Type 2 areas, however, this will be proportionate to the nature and use of these areas.

Type 1 Areas	Type 2 Areas
Playgrounds	Gardens
Skateparks	Parks, Reserves and Cemeteries
Sports Fields	Roads, Streets and Footpaths

Implementation

Awareness Initiatives

Council will develop and implement a communications plan within one year of adoption to promote smoke/vape free spaces, particularly in Type 1 areas.

Signs

Smoke free and vape free signs will be prioritised in Type 1 areas, followed by Type 2 areas. It is recognised that signage may not be appropriate in remote locations.

Initially, where feasible, signage in the form of stickers will be adhered to existing signage. When signs are replaced, smoke and vape free signage will be incorporated into the sign.

Events

Events supported by Council may be promoted as smoke and vape free events via promotional material and on Council's website and Facebook page. All event coordinators planning to run an event at a Council owned and/or managed outdoor area will be provided with a copy of this policy.

Leases

A copy of the Smoke/Vape Free Open Spaces Policy may be provided to all parties that lease Council owned sports grounds. Leases may specify that smoking is not permitted at any time and that smoking constitutes a breach of the agreement.

Partnerships

Southland District Council will work in partnership with other agencies operating locally and at a national level.

Definitions

term	meaning
Council supported event	Any planned public or social occasion which Southland District Council endorses, promotes or provides with funds and/or resources
Park	An area of land with or without facilities for rest and recreation which is owned or managed by Southland District Council for the enjoyment of the public
Playground	An area used for outdoor play or recreation, especially by children containing recreational equipment such as slides and swings
Reserve	Any area defined in Section 2 (1) of the Reserves Act 1977 including cemeteries, walking tracks, green spaces, playgrounds and sports fields
Smoking	To smoke, hold, or otherwise have control over an ignited tobacco product and other psychoactive substances
Vaping	To inhale using a vaping device or a heated tobacco product