

## POLICY

**HEALTH**

### SMOKE FREE GREEN SPACES

#### 1 Introduction

An amendment in 2003 to the *Smoke Free Environments Act 1990* banned smoking in certain places such as the buildings and grounds of schools and early childhood centres; licensed premises; and offices, factories, warehouses, canteens and smoko rooms. It also restricted the display of tobacco products in retail outlets and restricted access to persons under the age of eighteen.

In March 2011 the Government made a commitment to being a “Smokefree New Zealand” by 2025 which will be achieved by:

- Protecting children from exposure to tobacco marketing and promotion
- Reducing the supply of, and demand for, tobacco
- Providing the best possible support for quitting

The introduction of a District Policy to provide for smoke free green spaces is a key component for the Council to take action and become part of Smokefree New Zealand 2025.

There are over 30 Councils across New Zealand that have now adopted some form of Smokefree Policy including all Councils on the West Coast and most Canterbury Councils.

#### 2 Policy Context

It has been well documented that smoking is a health hazard. Smoking kills approximately 5000 New Zealanders per year and exposure through passive smoking alone kills around 350 New Zealanders per year. In this District 18% of males and 17% of females aged over 15 years smoke.

This policy contributes to improving the health and wellbeing of the community, by creating local environments, in green spaces, in which smoking is no longer socially acceptable and is less visible.

This policy is not a ban on smoking in a public place. The policy will be implemented through public ‘no smoking’ signage and an appeal to smokers’ social conscience. It will rely on the community users of that space to ask smokers to step outside the smokefree area should they light up.

Introducing a policy where people can choose to comply is in the spirit of promoting healthy lifestyle choices.

## POLICY

### HEALTH

## SMOKE FREE GREEN SPACES

### 3 Policy Objective

This policy seeks to denormalise smoking in green spaces that are owned and managed by Council by making it less visible, particularly to children and youth. Ultimately the objective is to minimise smoking uptake by children and young people. This policy is an educational tool to discourage smoking in places where particularly young people gather.

It is envisaged that adults using Council owned and managed green spaces will be smokefree role models for children and young people rather than giving the message that smoking is just another part of life, by visibly smoking in public places. This demonstrates proactive leadership by promoting a smoke free lifestyle as being both desirable and the norm in the Waimakariri District. It promotes a positive message that children's health and the public environment should be protected from the effects of smoking.

Messages on signage and through local media will be positive rather than punitive.

### 4 Policy Statement

Signage to encourage smoke free areas will be placed in all Council-owned parks. Categories include civic spaces, public gardens, outdoor adventure parks, cultural heritage parks, natural parks, recreation and ecological linkages, sport and recreation parks, and neighbourhood parks.

The policy seeks to achieve a smoke free message in all of the above areas; however, the policy will be implemented in stages over time, as approved through the Community and Recreation Committee, beginning with the 12 most utilised playgrounds across the District. These are:

Woodend Ashley Ward	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grange View Reserve</li> <li>• Waikuku Beach Central Area</li> <li>• Wanaka Reserve</li> <li>• Woodend Beach Domain</li> <li>• Tuahiwi Reserve</li> </ul>
Kaiapoi Ward	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moorcroft Reserve</li> <li>• Morgan Williams Reserve</li> </ul>
Oxford Eyre Ward	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jack Graham Reserve</li> <li>• Pearson Park</li> </ul>
Rangiora Ward	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elephant Park</li> <li>• Oakwood Park</li> <li>• Victoria Park</li> </ul>

## POLICY

### HEALTH

#### SMOKE FREE GREEN SPACES

Note that as green spaces become vested in Council and as new parks are developed, they will automatically become smoke free.

#### 5 Links to legislation, other policies and community outcomes

<i>Smoke Free Aotearoa 2025</i>	New Zealand is committed to becoming smoke free by 2025 meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that our children and grandchildren will be free from tobacco and enjoy tobacco-free lives</li> <li>• that almost no-one will smoke (less than 5% of the population will be current smokers)</li> <li>• it will be very difficult to sell or supply tobacco.</li> </ul>
<i>Smoke Free Environments Act 1990</i>	Smoking in childcare centres, schools and workplaces is prohibited; however, Council still has power to make bylaws.
<i>Local Government Act 2002</i>	The Council has a responsibility to promote the social, environmental, cultural and economic wellbeing of its residents.
<i>Heath Act 1956</i>	There is a duty of this Council to improve, promote and protect public health within its District.
Community Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a safe environment for all</li> <li>• The air is clean</li> <li>• Public spaces are plentiful, accessible and high quality</li> <li>• People are friendly and caring, creating a strong sense of community in our District.</li> </ul>

#### 6 Adopted by and date

This document was workshopped through the Policy Reference Group in August 2012, approved through the Community and Recreation Committee on 27 November and adopted by Council on 4 December 2012.

#### 7 Review

It is recommended that this policy be reviewed within three years of adoption, the next review being December 2015.