

Grey District Smoke Free Public Places Policy

Adopted: 12 February 2018

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 Grey District Council acknowledges the undeniable harm of smoking on health and wellbeing. Whilst smoking is a personal, conscious choice that every smoker takes, such smokers cannot prevent the impacts of secondary smoke on third parties. Council believes it has a duty to protect the health of such innocent bystanders, mostly children to avoid smoking in public places. In passing this Policy, Council does not deny smokers the right to smoke. The intention is to create a strictly voluntary adherence to the principle that smoking will not take place where it can risk impact on others.

2. Definitions and Scope

- 2.1 Council owns/controls a variety of public parks and reserves most of which are generally well used by the public, notably young children. Council also owns a variety of walkways, sporting facilities. Council furthermore owns the streets and footpaths within towns.
- 2.2 For purposes hereof, this Policy will apply to all land under Council ownership or control.

3. Alignment

- 3.1 The Policy aligns with a number of community values and outcomes, namely:
- Personal and property safety
 - A healthy community
- 3.2 It also aligns with the focus and initiatives of Council's partners in creating a healthy community, namely the West Coast District Health Board (WCDHB), Primary Health Organisation (PHO), Anti-Tobacco Coalition and various other non-government organisations (NGO) active in this field.

4. Relevant Legislation

- 4.1 The general focus of the Local Government Act remains on the promotion of social, economic, environmental and cultural health and wellbeing of communities.
- 4.2 The Health Act also requires local authorities to improve, promote and protect public health within their Districts.
- 4.3 The health and safety responsibilities of local authorities as 'person conducting a business or an undertaking' (PCBUs) under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 also impacts on managing the risks of smoking in public places.

5. Policy

5.1 Smoking in public places

This policy asks smokers within the community to refrain from smoking in public places, especially where children are in attendance.

5.2 Council owned or sanctioned events

Events owned or sanctioned by Council will be promoted as smoke free events. Advertising material promoting such events will clearly indicate that it will be smoke free.

5.3 Council involvement in the promotion of a smoke free society

Council will support the efforts of health promotional bodies and NGOs in educating the community on the health hazards involved with smoking. Notwithstanding, Council recognises the right of residents to smoke. Council's focus is for a smoke free society to evolve over time and to limit the health impacts on others during this time.

5.4 Smoke free signage

Where practicable, Council will integrate the standard smoke free decal in Council signage in public places across the District as part of a replacement/renewal programme based on an objective assessment of the public patronage of each such public place.

Note: The smokefree logo cannot be added to regulatory, warning or information signs Council places on roads and streets as per the New Zealand Transport Authority's Manual of Traffic Signs and Markings (MOTSAM).

5.5 Enforceability

This policy does not introduce a ban on smoking in public places. As stated, it aims at creating a voluntary adherence to the principle that people will not smoke in public places. No enforcement will be undertaken against anybody breaching the purpose of this policy.

6. Tenure

- 6.1 This policy will become operational on 12 February 2018 and will be reviewed as and when the need for a review arises.