



**WHANGAREI**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

# **Whangarei District Council**

**Smokefree Policy**

**Policy  
0138**

Smoke Free Policy (DRAFT)			
Audience (Primary)	External*	Business Owner (Dept)	Community
Policy Author	Tony Horton	Review Date	

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## Legislative Requirement

Central Government has committed to a goal of New Zealand becoming Smokefree by 2025. Whangarei District Council (WDC) along with a number of other councils across New Zealand have committed to the Smokefree 2025 Vision.

Although there is no legislative requirement for a Smokefree Policy, WDC will use this policy to support our commitment to a Smoke Free District and work with other key agencies and business to achieve this goal.

## Purpose

### Policy and Strategy Context

The WDC Smoke Free Policy will support the Central Government commitment for New Zealand to become Smokefree by 2025.

The Smoke Free policy aligns with our vision for the District

*“A vibrant, attractive and thriving District.”*

This policy also aligns with a number of other WDC strategies and plans, including the:

- City Centre Plan
- City Core Precinct Plan
- Blue Green Network Strategy
- Weekend and Night-time Economy Strategy
- Waste Minimisation and Management Plan

Our vision and these strategies seek to create an environment that is attractive and inviting. A District free from smoking will be more vibrant, attractive and inviting to our communities and our visitors.

Through the Northland Intersectoral Forum, WDC is also a signatory to the Statement of Intent to Support Tupeka Kore Smokefree Tai Tokerau 2025. This Statement of Intent outlines the following actions:

1. Expressing support and commitment for the vision of a Tupeka Kore Smokefree Tai Tokerau 2025
2. Developing and implementing an individual Agency Plan that will identify specific action within the organisation to progress the Smokefree 2025 Agenda
3. Working collaboratively with the Northland DHB Smokefree team to develop the plan as required
4. Support the Smokefree 2025 initiatives of other NIF Partners

The WDC Smokefree Policy meets our obligations under the Statement of Intent by outlining our Agency Plan in the form of the policy and action plan, providing a vehicle to work collaboratively with other agencies and expressing our commitment to a Smokefree Tai Tokerau.

### Health Drivers

Tobacco use is the leading cause of **preventable** death and disease in New Zealand, accounting for around 4,300 to 4,700 deaths per year.<sup>1 2 3</sup> When the deaths caused from exposure to second-hand smoke are included, this estimate increases to around 5,000 deaths per year.<sup>4 5</sup>

Second-hand smoke is also a serious, and often under-estimated, public health issue, especially for children.<sup>6</sup>

Northland experiences a higher burden from smoking than the rest of New Zealand. The prevalence of smokers in Whangarei is 17% (compared with 15.1% for NZ). 33.93% of Northland Māori smoke regularly and 15.6% of non-Maori<sup>7</sup>. Northland has a higher prevalence of ex-smokers and a lower proportion of never smokers than the rest of NZ.

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1 Peto R, Lopez AD, Boreham J, et al. 2006. *Mortality from smoking in developed countries 1950-2000*. Second edition. [www.cts.ox.ac.uk/~tobacco/](http://www.cts.ox.ac.uk/~tobacco/), retrieved 24 June 2009.

2 Public Health Intelligence. 2002. *Tobacco Facts May 2002 (Public Health Intelligence Occasional Report no 2)*. Wellington: Ministry of Health

3 Ibid, 2

4 Ministry of Health. 2004. Looking upstream: Causes of death cross-classified by risk and condition, New Zealand 1997. Wellington: Ministry of Health.

5 Tobias M, Turley M. 2005. Causes of death classified by risk and condition, New Zealand 1997. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, 29, 5-12.

6 Ministry of Health (2004). Looking Upstream: Causes of death cross-classified by risk and condition New Zealand 1997, *Public Health Intelligence Occasional Bulletin* Number 20, November 2004 (revised). See [http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/wpg\\_Index/Publications-Looking+Upstream](http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/wpg_Index/Publications-Looking+Upstream).

7 <http://www.stats.govt.nz/Census/2013-census.aspx>

Smoking in Northland is related to 25% of all deaths (47% of all Māori deaths, and 18% of non-Māori deaths). Smoking related hospitalisations in Northland (1,161 per 100,000 hospitalisations) are 1.5 times higher than the national rate.

Expanding Smokefree areas through this Policy is a vitally important way of de-normalising smoking, protecting our children and promoting healthy lifestyles.

### **Amenity and Environmental Drivers**

In New Zealand, over 6 million cigarette butts are discarded into our environment every year. These end up in our waterways and enter the food chains of fish, birds and other marine life. Cigarette butts are not biodegradable. They can take up to 25 years to fully degrade. While they do so they are releasing chemicals and toxins into the soil or water that surrounds them.

Smokefree areas will help to reduce the number of cigarette butts discarded in our District. It will help protect our environment and ensure our public spaces remain attractive and clean.

## **Policy**

### **Objective of the Smoke Free Policy:**

Whangarei District will be Smokefree by 2025

### **Policy Framework:**

To meet the objective, Whangarei District Council will:

1. be proactive and demonstrate leadership by promoting a Smokefree lifestyle as being desirable throughout the District
2. ensure Whangarei District Council owned property, including those leased or hired out to others, will be Smokefree through clauses in lease agreements
3. make all events that are funded, sponsored or run by Whangarei District Council or held on Council land are Smokefree through clauses in relevant contracts and agreements
4. make all public land owned by the Whangarei District Council Smokefree through appropriate signs and promotional material
5. make all beaches accessible by the public in the Whangarei District to be Smokefree through appropriate signs and promotional material
6. consider this policy and the goal of a Smokefree District by 2025 in all of our decision making
7. work collaboratively with other agencies and businesses to:
  - a. minimise, contain and/or eliminate smoking harm
  - b. develop appropriate educational tools
  - c. promote our Smokefree status through a co-ordinated communications strategy which covers media releases, engagement and promotional materials.

### **Policy Implementation**

Whangarei District Council's Smoke Free Policy will be implemented in stages through signs, educational material and working with key stakeholders such as the Northland District Health Board and the Cancer Society:

#### **Stage 1**

<b>When</b>	<b>Action</b>
Since 2011	Smokefree Council owned playgrounds, sports fields and neighbourhood reserves
Since 2014	Smokefree Council owned bus shelters and transport hubs
Since 2014 <i>Note: Further signs and promotion material by June 2019</i>	Smokefree Council Housing, Library Courtyard, Canopy Bridge, all cemeteries, the Botanica Gardens, and all car parks.
Since 2014	All Council run events are Smokefree

## Stage 2

<b>When</b>	<b>Action</b>
December 2019	Alfresco Dining policy to be reviewed to support alfresco dining areas to become Smokefree
December 2019	Public spaces in the City Centre including Cameron Street Mall/Laneway and the Town Basin to be Smokefree

## Stage 3

<b>When</b>	<b>Action</b>
May 2020	All public spaces owned by the Whangarei District Council will be Smokefree.
December 2020	All beaches promoted as Smokefree

## Definitions

### Smokefree by 2025

This means having a smoking population of less than 5% of the total population

### Smokefree

For the purposes of this policy Smokefree refers to:

- smoking of tobacco products
- vaping (the use of electronic cigarettes)
- use of heated tobacco products (HTP)

To support compliance to this policy and to eliminate the confusion smoking, vaping (the use of electronic cigarettes) and the use of heated tobacco products (HTP) are included in this policy. Vaping and the use of heated tobacco products mimic smoking and their emissions can create a nuisance and may result in public confusion and reduced compliance.

The Ministry of Health has stated that; the evidence on vaping indicates they carry much less risk than smoking cigarettes but are not risk free.

## **Related Policies and Documents**

Inquiry into the tobacco industry in Aotearoa and the consequences of tobacco use for Maori

[https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/reports/document/49DBSCH\\_SCR4900\\_1/inquiry-into-the-tobacco-industry-in-aotearoa-and-the-consequences](https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/reports/document/49DBSCH_SCR4900_1/inquiry-into-the-tobacco-industry-in-aotearoa-and-the-consequences)

Smokefree Aotearoa 2025

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/tobacco-control/smokefree-aotearoa-2025>

Smokefree

<https://www.smokefree.org.nz/smokefree-in-action/smokefree-aotearoa-2025>

**Adopted**

**Date of meeting:** 25-10-2018

**By:** Whangarei District Council