

# Smokefree and Vapefree Policy



Adopted/Confirmed:	24 July 2025
Review Frequency:	3 Yearly
Previous Adoption Date:	7 July 2022
Next Review Date:	July 2028
Policy Type:	Governance
Reviewer	GM People and Corporate
Policy Version	P283

## Contents

1	Purpose .....	2
2	Background .....	2
3	Policy Statement .....	3
4	Outcomes .....	4

## 1 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to promote a smokefree and vape-free environment for all residents and visitors in the Manawātū District.
- 1.2 To protect public (residents and visitors) health by eliminating exposure to second-hand smoke and vaping in our community spaces, promoting a safer and healthier environment for all.
- 1.3 To encourage the community to refrain from smoking and vaping in public spaces, Council facilities and public outdoor areas.

## 2 Background

- 2.1 The Smokefree Environments Act 1990 prohibits smoking in workplaces, education and childcare centres, public transport, passenger services, and certain other public areas, and restricts smoking in restaurants, cafes and casinos.
- 2.2 The Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Vaping) Amendment Act 2020 added references to vaping to the above Act. Vaping is disallowed or restricted in the locations described in 2.1.
- 2.3 In March 2011 the government adopted the Smokefree Aotearoa 2025 goal. The government aims to have less than 5% of New Zealanders smoking by 2025.
- 2.4 The Local Government Act 2002 states that local government's purpose is to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the community, both current and future. The Health Act 1956 states that it is the duty of every council to improve, promote and protect public health.
- 2.5 The policy aligns with three of the Council's community outcomes defined under the 2021-31 Long Term Plan:
  - a place to belong and grow;
  - a future planned together;
  - an environment to be proud of.

- 2.6 This policy also contributes to the goals of Council's Community Development Strategy by supporting physical well-being (Te Taha Tinana), under the Te Whare Tapa Whā model of health.
- 2.7 Council already has smokefree or smoke and vape-free provisions in place in the following locations:
- inside halls (Halls Terms and Conditions); and
  - at the Library and Makino Aquatic Centre (Conditions of Entry).

### **3 Policy Statement**

- 3.1 Manawātū District Council endorses the goal of Smokefree Aotearoa 2025.
- 3.2 Council will work with stakeholders towards reaching the Government's stated goal of a Smokefree Aotearoa by 2025.
- 3.3 Through signage and the provision of educational material where appropriate, Council will encourage the public to refrain from smoking and vaping in the following Council controlled public areas:
- Playgrounds
  - Sportsgrounds
  - Leisure and recreation facilities
  - Bus shelters (Owned by Horizons Regional Council)
  - Council facilities and areas within a 4 metre radius, including halls, libraries and the Makino Aquatic Centre
  - Other council-owned public places including parks and reserves.
  - Public areas where Council hosts events
- 3.4 Council will consider applying smoke and vape free clauses to new or renewed leases of Council property.
- 3.5 Council will work with Council Controlled Organisations involved in the management of public places to consider whether a smokefree policy is appropriate for their location/s.
- 3.6 Smokefree and Vapefree signage may be displayed where it is determined to be most effective to discourage smoking and vaping in these areas.
- 3.7 Council-run or supported events will be run and promoted as Smokefree and Vapefree events.
- 3.8 Events run or funded by Council will be required to meet Smokefree and Vapefree criteria in funding applications before funding will be granted.
- 3.9 Council may establish Designated Smoking Areas (DSAs) at specific outdoor locations within Council-managed properties or public spaces, including but not limited to, parks, sports grounds, and event venues. These areas will be clearly identified by appropriate signage.
- 3.10 Where there is a DSA established, smoking and vaping will be permitted only within the designated smoking areas (DSAs).



- 3.11 Each DSA will be equipped with waste disposal bins to ensure the proper disposal of cigarette butts and related waste.
- 3.12 DSAs will be located at least 10 meters from building entrances, playgrounds, and areas frequently used by children or people at greater risk from exposure to smoking and vaping, in line with the Manawātū District's commitment to public health.
- 3.13 The number and location of DSAs will be determined by the Council based on accessibility, safety, and the need to minimize exposure to second-hand smoke for the general public.
- 3.14 Council will take an educational rather than enforcement approach to this policy.

## **4 Outcomes**

- 4.1 This Smokefree and Vapefree Policy aims to achieve the following outcomes:
  - (a) A reasonable decrease in the prevalence of smoking and vaping in public spaces, particularly in areas frequented by children, families, and people at greater risk from exposure to smoking and vaping.
  - (b) A reduction in health risks associated with exposure to second-hand smoke and vapour, leading to better overall community health and well-being.
  - (c) Enhanced cleanliness and safety in public areas, with fewer discarded cigarette butts and vaping-related waste, contributing to more pleasant and hygienic environments.