

Smokefree and Vapefree Policy

Team and Department:	Planning and Environment
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Purpose

To reduce the impact of smoking and tobacco use on non-smokers, through reduced exposure to second-hand smoke and the de-normalisation of smoking at council controlled facilities.

Objectives

Objectives include:

- Ensure Council owned areas, including parks, playgrounds, and facilities, are and remain smokefree.
- To amend the definition of Smokefree in Central Otago to include vaping, consistent with the *Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Vaping) Amendment Act 2020* – an amendment to the *Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990*.
- To restrict vaping in smokefree areas.
- To improve the health and well-being of our communities through decreasing the prevalence of smoking and decreasing public exposure to second-hand smoke.
- To increase the likelihood that people, particularly rangatahi, will remain smokefree by reducing the number of places where they see others smoking.
- Supporting local and national wellbeing policy goals.

Principles

Central Otago District has three high-level Community Outcomes, determined by the community, that all planning and policies align:



This policy is consistent with these outcomes through:

- Placing the health and wellbeing of the community at the forefront
- Reducing cigarette waste, and other associated toxins, from disposal in the environment

Other principles include:

- Guidance by national legislative and policy direction, with community input
- Taking an educational approach aimed at lessening the effect of smoking on the community, rather than individual punitive measures
- A strong focus on providing smokefree public environments

Scope

This policy covers Central Otago District Council's position in relation to:

- Smokefree public places
- Smokefree Events

This policy focuses on where people are requested not to smoke.

Whether people choose to become smokefree is outside the scope of this policy. Assistance to become smokefree is offered through health agencies.

This policy includes both traditional tobacco based smoking products, and newer products including dry heat and vaping.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the definition of smoking includes:

- To smoke, hold, or otherwise have control over an ignited tobacco product, weed, herb, plant, or controlled substance
- To smoke, hold, or otherwise have control over an ignited product or thing whose customary use is or includes the inhalation from it of the smoke produced from its combustion or the combustion of any part of it

- Use of a heated tobacco product that has a device that uses or facilitates the use of heat to aerosolise nicotine from tobacco leaf directly
- Use of a vaporiser or vaping device
- For clarity, the definition includes tobacco and all associated products such as cigarettes, cigars, pipes; vaping products, regardless of the nicotine content; herbal smoking; controlled and illegal drug use.

Designated Smokefree areas in Central Otago are to be free from inhaling smoke or vapour from any of the products or substances listed above.

Smokefree and Vapefree Public Places

The following areas are designated smokefree and vapefree:

- All council owned parks and reserves, tracks and walkways, sportsgrounds and playgrounds. A ten metre smokefree and vapefree perimeter is designated around these facilities on any council owned land.
- Within ten metres of public pedestrian entrances to Council owned buildings (including libraries, swimming pools, sport facilities, etc.)
 - For the main entrance to Council's civic buildings, the smokefree area will include the full forecourt from the public footpath.
- Bus stops, including a ten-metre perimeter from bus shelters, signs, or bus stop markings.
- Areas set up primarily for café or dining purposes on publicly owned land and Council owned tables in public areas.

Smokefree and Vapefree Community Events

To promote healthier public places and a healthier Central Otago:

- Events held at any of Council's public places must be smokefree.
- Public events receiving Council funding will be required to support smokefree messages.

Education and Enforcement

Signage promoting positive smokefree messages have been installed in appropriate places. This policy is educational rather than punitive.

The Council will:

- Update and clarify the definitions of smoking and smokefree to include vaping and associated products through this policy

- Communicate these changes to the public via Council social media channels and by publication of this policy on the Central Otago District Council website
- Amend documentation around the use of any council land or venue for an event to include vaping
- Update signage at strategic locations through renewals

Links

This policy confirms and reinforces existing council smokefree policies and [Reserve Management Plans](#).

Legislation

[Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990](#)

- The Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Vaping) Amendment Act 2020 commenced on 11 November 2020, amending the Smoke-free Environments Act 1990 and renaming it to the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990.
- The Smoke-free Environments Act, which prohibits smoking inside workplaces and other public enclosed areas. The Act also refers in Section 20 to local authorities having powers to provide greater protection from tobacco smoke.