

# Smokefree and Vapefree Outdoor Public Places Policy

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| <b>Business unit(s) &amp; Division(s)</b> | Strategy and Policy                                                                |                |                                                                                             |
| <b>Date adopted</b>                       | October 2026                                                                       |                |                                                                                             |
| <b>Date effective</b>                     | October 2026                                                                       |                |                                                                                             |
| <b>Review period</b>                      | 3 years                                                                            |                |                                                                                             |
| <b>Owner</b>                              | Head of Strategy and Policy                                                        |                |                                                                                             |
| <b>Approved by</b>                        | Council                                                                            |                |                                                                                             |
| <b>Implementation</b>                     | Neighbourhoods and Communities; Parks and Reserves; Transport; Strategy and Policy |                |                                                                                             |
| <b>Monitoring/Evaluation</b>              | Neighbourhoods and Communities; Parks and Reserves; Transport; Strategy and Policy |                |                                                                                             |
| <b>Version</b>                            | <b>Author</b>                                                                      | <b>Date</b>    | <b>Description</b>                                                                          |
| V3.0                                      | Olivia Miller and Sam White                                                        | 6 October 2026 | Minor changes to include vapefree wording in line with The Smoke-Free Environments Act 1990 |
| V2.0                                      | John Pritchard                                                                     | 18/09/2019     | Resolution approved by Council                                                              |



# Introduction

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Hutt City Council is taking a leadership role to ensure that Lower Hutt:

- a. is a healthy community;
- b. has a healthy natural environment with clean air, water and land; and
- c. has a built environment that is attractive, safe, and healthy.

Smokefree Outdoor Public Places Policy (the Policy) was implemented to contribute toward further denormalising smoking in Lower Hutt and achieving the goal of a smokefree Aotearoa 2025. The Smokefree Aotearoa goal was that fewer than 5 percent of New Zealanders will be smokers.

## Objectives

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- 1. Further denormalise smoking and vaping for children and young people by reducing its visibility in public places; and
- 2. Contribute to improved health and wellbeing by reducing smoking, vaping and the impacts of second-hand smoke.

## Approach

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The Smoke-Free Environments Act 1990 prohibits smoking and vaping in workplaces and certain public areas but smoking and vaping are not illegal.

This Policy contributes to making our city increasingly smokefree and vapefree. The Policy discourages smoking and vaping in outdoor public places in Lower Hutt primarily through signage, promotion and marketing, education, and engagement with stakeholders and communities.

The Policy takes a regulatory approach to public land leased to businesses to use for outdoor dining.

In such instances, the contract with Council requires the area to be smokefree and vapefree.

# Smokefree and Vapefree Areas in Lower Hutt

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The following areas in Lower Hutt are designated smokefree and vapefree:

- a. playgrounds;
- b. swimming pool complexes;
- c. parks and sports grounds, including skate parks;
- d. bus shelters and bus stops;
- e. train stations;
- f. beaches;
- g. outdoor public areas around Council buildings and facilities;
- h. Council run and funded events. Council will work with event organisers to make events for which it provides funding smokefree and vapefree;
- i. outdoor pavement dining areas; and
- j. suburban centres.

# Vaping

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Vaping products, also known as e-cigarettes, are devices that produce a vapour by heating a solution (e-liquid). The Council, through its publicity and communication, asks that people not vape in smokefree spaces or at smokefree events.

## Implementation

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The Policy will be delivered as part of the core activities of relevant Council teams.

The focus for signage is firstly on the most popular areas, areas where children and families congregate or socialise, and areas where smoking and vaping rates are high. Implementation of the Policy includes signage and messaging in Te Reo Māori.

For bus stops, bus shelters, and train stations, Council works with Greater Wellington Regional Council and other partners to add and renew signage.

## Review

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The Policy will be reviewed by October 2029.