



YOUNG SHIRE COUNCIL

SMOKE FREE OUTDOOR POLICY

DATE ADOPTED: 20 APRIL 2011

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND	3
2	PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES.....	3
3	POLICY.....	4
4	RELATED POLICY	4
5	LEGISLATION	4
6	ENFORCEMENT.....	4
7	RESPONSIBILITY.....	4

1 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Council has a role in advocating better public health for its residents.

There is substantial evidence linking exposure to second-hand smoke with a range of serious and life threatening health impacts including heart disease, cancer, asthma and other respiratory problems. Children exposed to second-hand smoke are at an increased risk of asthma, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), acute respiratory infections and ear problems.

In September 2000, the NSW Parliament passed the NSW Smoke-Free Environment Act, which prohibited smoking in a wide range of public places. In 2004, the Act was amended, and from July 2007 smoking will be banned in all enclosed public places, including State and federal Offices, hospitals, schools, childcare centres and entertainment venues. The Act does not cover outdoor public places.

Under the NSW Local Government Act 1993, section 362 (1) and (2) e, Councils have the power to legislate in their own jurisdictions to protect the health and wellbeing of their communities from the effects of second-hand smoke.

2 PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

This policy recognises that Council has:

- An obligation to promote public health outcomes where Council provides assets and services intended to be of benefit to children and other members of the community;
- A commitment to improve the natural environment and the amenity of the local area by reducing the amount of cigarette butt litter found in outdoor spaces;
- An understanding that the damaging effects of passive smoking while well documented in regard to indoor areas, is also beginning to emerge in regard to outdoor areas; and
- An acknowledgement that the indirect effects of people smoking in an outdoor area can result in children playing with and swallowing discarded cigarette butts; cigarette-derived particles accumulating on clothing and skin; and smoking causing sensory irritations such as eye watering, coughing, difficulty in breathing or asthma.

The objectives of Young Shire Council in banning smoking in various Council areas are to:

- Improve the health of community members;
- Improve public amenity and maintenance of Council property;
- Raise community awareness of the issues associated with smoking;
- Provide community leadership in taking measures to protect the health and social wellbeing of the community;
- Minimise cigarette butt pollution on Council owned property.

3 POLICY

Smoking will be banned in the following areas on Council land:

1. Within ten (10) metres of all children's playground equipment;
2. On all playing fields, sporting grounds and sporting facilities (ie swimming pools, outdoor sporting venues);
3. At all events run or sponsored by Council which are held in an enclosed venue.
4. In alfresco dining areas on public land;
5. Within ten (10) metres of Council owned or managed buildings including balconies or covered areas of those buildings;
6. Further, that this Policy be enforced in any leases, licenses or other estates that apply to Council owned and managed lands and properties and that internationally recognised signage be erected to indicate that these areas are smoke-free.

4 RELATED POLICY

Policy-00049 Smoking on or in Council owned property

5 LEGISLATION

NSW Local Government Act 1993
NSW Smoke-Free Environment Act 2000

6 ENFORCEMENT

- In implementing Council's Smoke Free Outdoor Policy a program of community education and awareness will be undertaken.
- Enforcement of this policy will be by signage, positive persuasion and self policing through the community, rather than punitive enforcement.
- Suitable signage, including new signage as well as the addition of recognised 'no smoking' signage, will be installed in suitable areas.

7 RESPONSIBILITY

Planning, Environment & Strategic Services

Date Amended: 20.04.11

Resolution No. 117/11