Smokefree Vapefree Policy

DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION – AUGUST 2026



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Purpose

This is an education policy, developed with the aims of increasing the likelihood that people, particularly young people, will remain smokefree and vapefree by reducing the number of places where they see others smoking or vaping, and of improving the clean air environment of Invercargill and Bluff. It is intended that this policy will aid in reducing the visibility of smoking and vaping in public through the designation of smokefree vapefree areas.

Scope

This policy provides for smokefree vapefree areas covering all Invercargill City Council (Council) owned parks, reserves, cemeteries, children's playgrounds, sports fields, the Splash Palace car park, Council owned or operated public parking lots and buildings, Council bus stops, Council owned or operated public toilets, areas directly outside schools and early learning services, and other designated areas within Invercargill City. This will be supported by signage where possible.

Definitions

Smokefree Vapefree refers to the use of any smoking device, including but not limited to cigarettes, e-cigarettes, or vaporisers (vapes).

Smokefree Vapefree Area means the defined smokefree vapefree areas within the Invercargill City Council boundary which are listed below. Smokefree vapefree areas include all public access ways to commercial buildings (such as footpaths, doorways) and facilities in the area, outdoor public areas, events organised and held within the area, outdoor dining areas, and others. The policy also applies to any workplace within those areas, and includes entrances to all Council Parks, Reserves, playgrounds and sportsgrounds, and Splash Palace pool and car park.

Location of Smokefree Vapefree Areas

This policy applies to the following areas:

- The Invercargill City Centre, a map of which is included at Appendix A.

Document Set ID: 9501906
Version: 4, Version Date: 23/07/2026

- Council owned parks, reserves, cemeteries, playgrounds, and sportsgrounds, as shown in the maps at Appendix B.
- Splash Palace, including the car park, as shown in the map at Appendix C.
- Council owned or operated parking lots and buildings, as detailed on Council's website: Parking in the city - Invercargill City Council
- Council bus stops, as detailed on Council's website: Bus routes and times - Invercargill City Council
- Council owned or operated public toilets, as detailed on Council's website: Public toilets - Invercargill City Council
- The footpath directly in front of all early learning services and schools. Directories are available from: Directories | Education Counts

Council's Responsibility and Implementation

This policy seeks to discourage smoking within the smokefree vapefree areas through the use of signage and promotion. The focus of signage will be targeted in high density areas, areas where smoking or vaping is prevalent, and at commercial buildings and facilities within the city centre. Council's Parks and Reserves will show smokefree vapefree signage where possible, especially around play areas and equipment, and at allocated sportsgrounds. Council will request events to be smokefree and vapefree, and that appropriate signage is displayed where possible. Council will encourage businesses within the smokefree vapefree area who have a permit or licence to operate on the footpath to support the smokefree vapefree area.

It is acknowledged that some businesses allow staff members to smoke or vape at the back of their buildings, away from main thoroughfares. This is at their discretion.

This policy is not a ban on smoking or vaping in a public place and enforcement measures will not be used against those who breach the policy. Rather, the purpose of the policy is to support Council's commitment to promote positive health choices and outcomes.

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Document Control

Revision History:	
Effective Date:	[tbc 2026]
Review Period:	This Policy will be reviewed every six (6) years, unless earlier review is required due to legislative changes, or is warranted by another reason requested by Council.
New Review Date:	[tbc 2032]
Associated Documents / References:	
Supersedes:	Smokefree Policy 2020
Reference Number:	A6498695
Policy Owner:	Manager – Environmental Health
Policy Training:	[tbc]



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