

Policy – No 154	Adopted:	OM: 08.12.2003
	Reviewed:	
	Amended:	OM:17.03.2008 OM: 17.10.2011 OM: 04.11.2013
	Revoked:	

TITLE:	SMOKE FREE ZONES AROUND PITTWATER
STRATEGY:	BUILDING COMMUNITIES
BUSINESS UNIT:	COMMUNITY, LIBRARY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
RELEVANT LEGISLATION:	SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENTAL ACT 2000 PUBLIC HEALTH (TOBACCO) ACT 2008
RELATED POLICIES:	NONE

Objectives

The objectives of Pittwater Council in banning/encouraging the community not to smoke in various Council areas are to:

- Improve the health of community members;
- Improve the 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 beaches, waterways, parks and other open space areas.

Policy Statement

Background

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.

While most of the evidence relates to indoor exposure, there is emerging evidence on how smoking affects air quality in outdoor locations such as alfresco cafes and playgrounds. A recent study which measured cigarette smoke levels in a variety of outdoor locations showed that a person sitting near a smoker in an outdoor area could be exposed to levels of cigarette smoke similar to the exposure of someone sitting in an indoor tavern where smoking is allowed.

Therefore, the second-hand smoke in outdoor areas where people tend to congregate, such as alfresco dining areas, sports stadiums and concert venues etc. can present a real health risk to patrons and staff.

There is also evidence to suggest that smoking bans or encouraging people not to smoke support smokers who are trying to quit as well as reduce their overall cigarette consumption. Fifty four percent of smokers who had tried to quit found that seeing someone with a cigarette was a trigger to relapse, according to a 2006 study.

In addition to the health impacts, cigarettes are an environmental issue. Cigarette butts take up to five years to break down. Cigarette butts are consistently one of the most common items found during Clean Up Australia Day. Almost 50% of all litter in urban areas is tobacco related products. Outdoor smoking bans can help to reduce the amount of cigarette butt litter and provide a substantial cost saving through reduced clean-up costs.

Principles

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.

Smoke Free Areas

That Council supports the banning of smoking in the following outdoor public places consistent with the Smoke-Free Environment Act 2000 (as amended 2013).

- (i) within 10 metres of children's play equipment,
- (ii) a swimming pool complex,
- (iii) a spectator area at a sports ground or other recreational area being used for an organised sporting event,
- (iv) public transport stops and stations (including ferry wharves and taxi ranks),
- (v) within 4 metres of a pedestrian access point to a building (with effect from 6 July 2015 for licensed premises and restaurants under the *Liquor Act 2007*),
- (vi) a commercial outdoor dining area (with effect from 6 July 2015).
- (vii) All public beaches (sand areas)

Signage

Smoke-free zones will be signposted, wherever practicable using internationally recognisable no smoking signage. These signposts will be displayed in positions deemed appropriate by the General Manager.