

# Summary of Information

## Smokefree and Vapefree Policy 2024

This Summary of Information provides information that will help the community to make a submission on the draft Smokefree and Vapefree Policy 2024.

### Why are we doing this?

Council has a statutory obligation under the Public Health Act 1956 'to improve, promote and protect public health within its district'. The Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990 covers Council's workplaces but does not extend to outdoor areas under Council control.

Smoking tobacco is the leading cause of lung cancer. The incidence of smoking in the Rangitikei District is higher than the national average.

Vaping is one way in which smokers can end their addiction, but its long-term effects are unknown. However, unlike Australia, the availability of vapes in New Zealand is not confined to pharmacies. Vaping is being promoted to non-smokers and sometimes leads to people starting smoking.

Most councils in New Zealand have such a policy.

### What does the Policy do?

- Prohibits smoking and vaping in all Council-owned or controlled parks, playgrounds, reserves, skateparks, swimming pools, bus stops, and beaches.
- Prohibits smoking and vaping in all Council owned or controlled facilities including when hired or occupied by other people.
- Prohibits smoking and vaping in all footpath dining areas in town centres and within four metres on footpaths adjacent to Council building entrances.
- Allows Council's Chief Executive to establish a designated area for Council staff who are smokers or vapers.
- Requires all Council-funded events to be smokefree and vapefree.
- Anticipates Council working alongside agencies like Te Whatu Ora | Health New Zealand, the Cancer Society and the Asthma and Respiratory Foundation to discourage smoking and vaping.

### How will Council enforce the Policy?

Council will promote compliance through signage and shared promotions with agencies working to reduce smoking and vaping. The Policy relies on community support for smoking and vaping not being done in the designated Council-controlled areas. The Policy is not a bylaw so there is no legal enforcement. This is how most other councils have addressed the issue.

### We want to hear your views

Any person, organisation or body is welcome to make a submission on the Policy. The consultation period will be open from **Friday 31 May 2024** and will close on **Monday 1 July 2024**. If submitters would like to speak, the hearing is scheduled on **Thursday 25 July 2024**.

### Making a submission

You can make a submission:

- Online at: [www.rangitikei.govt.nz](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz)
- By visiting the Council Office in Marton or visiting one of our service centres
- By emailing [info@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:info@rangitikei.govt.nz)

### Contact Us

If you have any questions about the draft Policy please get in touch by calling 0800 422 522.

You can find this statement of proposal and the draft Policy online at [www.rangitikei.govt.nz](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz), or at the Marton Main Office or any of our service centres.