



## Smoke-free Outdoor Areas Policy

### Policy Statement

The Smoke-Free Outdoor Areas Policy prohibits :

1. No Smoking within 10 metres of the Brelsford Park Playground Facility and new playgrounds as they are developed (immediately); and
2. BCU International Stadium (by January 2010).

AS FUNDING ALLOWS :

3. All other Children's Playgrounds
4. Playing/sporting fields and facilities (i.e. swimming pools, outdoor sports centre, etc.) and other out door areas as deemed appropriate.
5. The entrance and egress of all Council owned buildings/facilities (i.e. library, gallery, museum, swimming pools, etc.)
6. Suitable signage as indicated, including the use of appendage "no smoking" symbols to existing signage, and any other methods of signing as deemed appropriate and cost effective.

Samples of Signage could include :



### Related Legislation, Circulars or Guidelines (as amended)

The NSW Local Government Act 1993 (S632).

**Does this Document Replace an Existing Policy, Procedure or Plan?**

**No**

### Related Council Policy or Procedure

- Coffs Harbour City Council adoption of its "Smoke Free Workplace" Policy Smoking was prohibited from all Council buildings 1 May 1992; and
- The BCU International Stadium became smoke-free in January 2010.

### Application and Distribution

It is mandatory for all Council officials to comply with this Policy

**Approved by:** Executive Team

**Meeting Date:** 24 February 2010  
Item 8.1

**Signature:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*General Manager*

**Effective:**

**Review Date:** December 2013

**Distribution :**

**Record Number:**

**Responsible Council Department/Officer:** Cultural & Community Development

**Version History Table:**

## Key Responsibilities

<b>Position</b>	<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Mayor	Council	To lead Councillors in their understanding of, and compliance with, this Policy and Guidelines.
General Manager	Executive	To lead staff (either directly or through delegated authority) in their understanding of, and compliance with, this Policy and Guidelines.  To approve resources to develop, implement and review this Policy and Guidelines.
Director	City Services	To ensure the Policy is acknowledged and actioned by all Exec Managers and Managers as deemed appropriate but in particular;
Manager Recreational Services	City Services	To ensure the Policy is adhered to by signposting all new playgrounds in the LGA with "No Smoking within 10 metres of all playgrounds".
Landscape Architect	City Serviced	To ensure the Policy is adhered to in the design and planning of all new playgrounds by signposting all new playgrounds with "No Smoking within 10 metres of all playgrounds".
Manager Sports Unit	Corporate Business	To observe the Policy in relation to point 4 of the policy Statement.
Special Projects Coordinator	City Services	To undertake review of the Smoke-Free Outdoor Areas Policy by December 2013 as determined by the Exec Team.
Director	Land Use, Health & Development	To ensure the Policy is acknowledged and actioned by all Exec Managers and Managers.
Manager , Land Use Management	Land Use, Health & Development	To ensure the Policy is acknowledged and actioned by all Exec Managers and Managers as deemed appropriate but in particular;
Team Leader Compliance Unit	Land Use, Health & Development	To observe the policy - no compliance required at this stage.
Directors	All Directorates	To communicate, implement and comply with this Policy and related Guidelines.
Director of Corporate Business	Corporate Business	To ensure (directly or through delegation) the distribution and communication of the Policy and Guidelines to specified persons.  To ensure (directly or through delegation) the approved Policy and Guidelines are available in hard copy and electronically on Council's website.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Executive Manager HR & Organisational Development	Corporate Business	Facilitate the provision of regular training to all Council officials on their role and responsibilities in relation to this Policy, Guidelines and related procedures.
Executive and Managers	All Directorates	To implement this Policy, Guidelines and related procedures.  To lead staff in their understanding of, and compliance with, this Policy and Guidelines
Information Technology Manager	Corporate Business	To assist with the development of systems to support public access to this Policy, Guidelines and related information.
All Council officials	Council	To comply with this Policy, Guidelines and related procedures.

# Smoke-free Outdoor Areas Policy

## Policy Guidelines

### 1. Background

Council entered into a Community Partnership with the Cancer Council in late 2006 to undertake initiatives to lower the impact of cancer in the community. In August 2009 the Smoke-free Policy Working Group was set-up to look at the development of the Policy and the consequence of this.

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.

Community attitudes towards smoking have changed overtime. There is mounting evidence showing the harmful effects of passive smoking, and also because of litigation, by the mid-1990s smoke-free workplace policies had been introduced extensively throughout both public and private sectors. While all State and Federal government offices had become smoke-free, bans and restrictions were also introduced in many shopping centres, hospitals, schools, childcare settings and entertainment venues, as well as in the transport sector. 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 banded in all enclosed public places. However, these laws make no provision for controlling outdoor smoking in places where people congregate. Under the NSW Local Government Act 1993, Council's have the power to legislate in their own jurisdictions to protect their local communities from the effects of second-hand smoke.

### 2. Objectives

The objective of Council's Smoke-free Outdoor Areas Policy and Guidelines is to:

- Improve the health and amenity of the community by banning smoking in public outdoor areas;
- Raise the community awareness of the issues associated with smoking;
- Provide community leadership in taking measures to protect the health and social wellbeing of the community.
- Improve the public amenity and maintenance of Council property;
- Minimise cigarette butt pollution within the local government area.

### 3. Policy Statement / Key Principles

Council's Council's Smoke-free Outdoor Areas Policy and Guidelines is underpinned by the following principles:

This Policy applies to:

- The initiation of a process of education and awareness within the community about the impact of smoking on others in public places.
- 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 of the damaging effects of passive smoking in outdoor areas which is beginning to emerge
- The banning of smoke in public places including children's playgrounds, playing fields, sporting grounds and sporting facilities, family oriented areas including beaches, reserves and parks, bus shelters and entrance and egress into Council owned buildings.

#### 3.1 Access

- Public access to information about Smoke-free Outdoor Areas Policy will be through Council's website. Hard copy information will also be available from Council's libraries.
- Reasonable access assistance will be available to persons with special needs.

#### 3.2 Responsiveness and Accountability

- **Sustainability Implications**

The Smoke-Free Outdoor Areas Policy recognises that Council has an obligation to promote public health outcomes where Council provides assets and services intended to be for the benefit of children and other members of the community. It also recognises that Council has 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 areas.

- **Social Implications**

There is increasing evidence of the serious and life threatening health impacts of passive smoking on people in outdoor areas. Children are most vulnerable to the effects of passive smoking. Evidence shows that risks can be considerably reduced through the implementation of smoking bans in outdoor areas. In addition, evidence shows that smoking bans support smokers who are trying to quit as well reduce their overall cigarette consumption. *(N.B. Providing smoke-free areas protect the right of the public to clean fresh air. 82% of the population are non-smokers. Providing smoke-free areas protects non-smokers and helps those smokers who have decided to quit.)*

- **Economic Implications**

Associated with the littering of cigarette butts, smoking bans have proven to reduce clean-up costs. In relation to the health implications of passive smoking, smoking bans will ultimately reduce costs and demands of health care.

- **Environmental Implications**

Cigarette butts are not biodegradable and take up to five years to break down. They are also the most common form of litter. Smoking bans have proven to reduce these negative effects to the environment.

- **Enforcement of The Policy**

While Council has the ability to issue penalty notices, Council prefers that initially the Policy be self-monitoring, supported by persuasion and community awareness, rather than punitive enforcement. However, this may be re-visited if required or as part of the Policy's regular reviewing process.

- **Implication Responsibility**

All staff as deemed necessary to implement the Policy.

Currently the Policy does not apply to:

Public footpaths, Al fresco dining areas, general parks, gardens and open spaces including grassed areas behind and/or adjacent to patrolled beaches. However, these areas may be re-considered in future reviews of the Policy.

- **Review Date**

It is recommended that a review of the Policy be undertaken in December 2013 to gauge the benefits and effects of its implementation and possibly broadening the Policy.