

SMOKE-FREE OUTDOOR AREAS

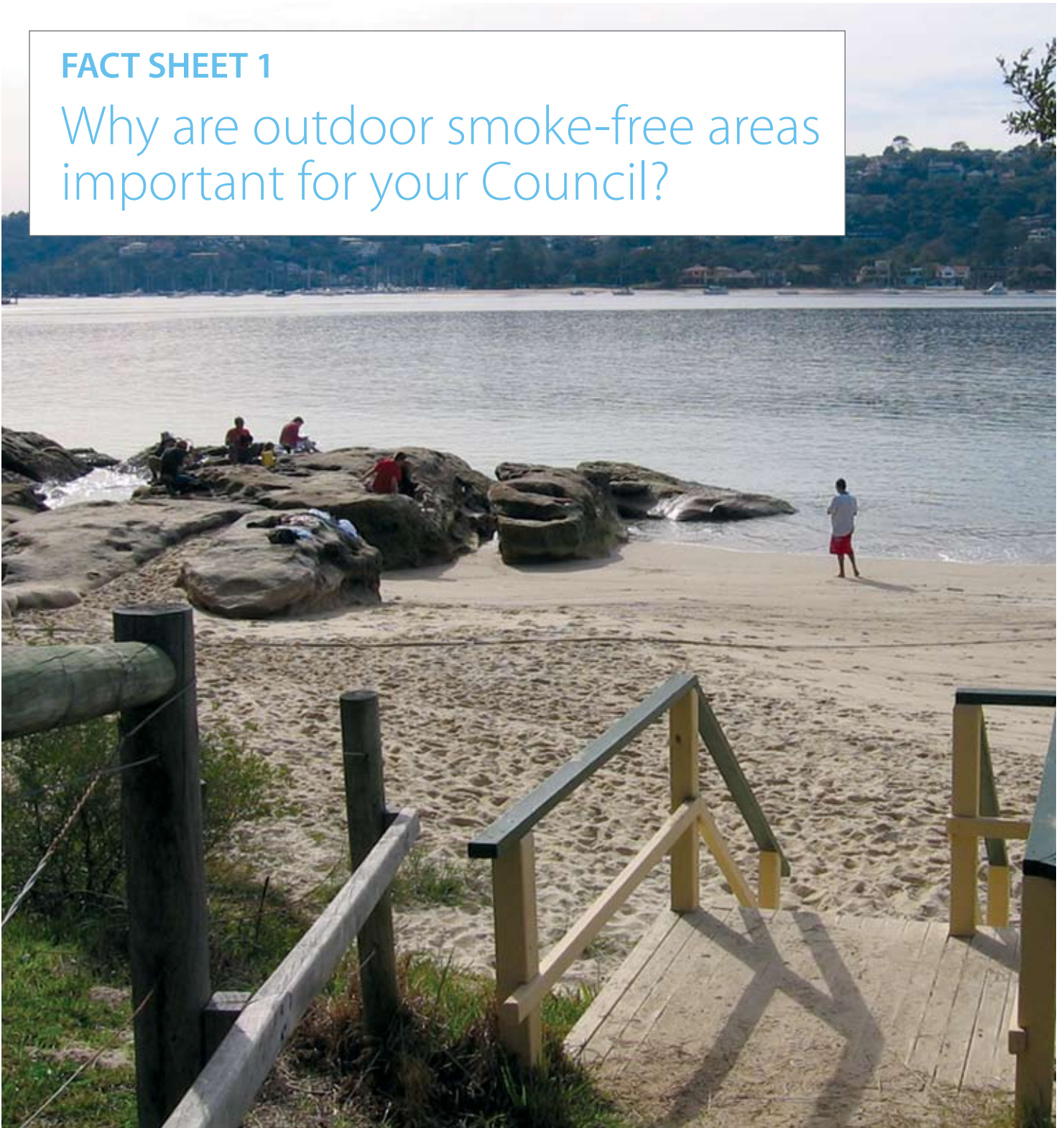
A RESOURCE KIT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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FACT SHEET 1

Why are outdoor smoke-free areas important for your Council?



Introducing outdoor smoke-free areas is a positive step that your local Council can take to protect the community from second-hand smoke while at the same time promoting positive health messages and a cleaner, safer environment.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Increasing community awareness of the harmful effects of second-hand smoke has led the community to accept, and expect the availability of smoke-free areas. Given that over 82% of the NSW population are non-smokers¹ a Council's decision to introduce smoke-free areas is often in response to community expectations.

In December 2006, a survey² of 2,400 NSW residents found overwhelming support for smoking restrictions in the following areas:

- 92% support bans in children's playgrounds
- 85% support bans outside workplace doors/entrances
- 80% support bans in sports stadiums
- 69% support bans in outdoor dining areas
- In addition, 65% say they avoid places where they may be exposed to other people's smoke.

HEALTH IMPACTS

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.³ 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.^{4,5,6,7,8} 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.⁹ Therefore, the second-hand smoke in outdoor areas where people tend to congregate, including alfresco dining areas, sports stadiums and concert venues, can present a real health risk to patrons and staff.

There is also evidence to suggest that smoking bans support smokers who are trying to quit as well as reduce their overall cigarette consumption.¹⁰ Fifty four percent of smokers who had tried to quit found that seeing someone with a cigarette was a trigger to relapse, while 40% said that smelling a cigarette was a trigger to relapse, according to a 2006 study.²

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Cigarettes are the most littered item in the world.¹² Consistently one of the most common items found during Clean Up Australia Day, cigarette butts make up 31% of the top 10 items found and almost 50% of litter in urban areas.¹³ Cigarette butts are not biodegradable and take up to five years to break down. Outdoor smoking bans can help to reduce the amount of cigarette butt litter and provide a substantial cost saving through reduced clean-up costs.

A policy for reducing butt litter should include extending smoke-free areas. While public education on responsible disposal may form part of a local strategy, NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change research has found that this alone will not reduce butt litter.¹⁴ Councils should be especially wary of education-only strategies funded by tobacco industry-funded organisations, such as the Butt Littering Trust (see Fact Sheet 4 for more information on the Trust).

CURRENT LEGISLATION

Smoking in enclosed public places in NSW is regulated by the *NSW Smoke-Free Environment Act 2000*¹⁵.

However, these laws make no provision for controlling outdoor smoking in places where people congregate, such as alfresco dining areas, sporting fields and playgrounds.

Under the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*, Councils have the power to legislate in their own jurisdictions to protect their local communities from the effects of second-hand smoke. (See Fact Sheet 2 for more information.)

92% of people surveyed support bans in children's playgrounds, according to a 2006 survey of 2400 NSW residents².



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.⁹

FOOTNOTES

- 1 NSW Population Health Survey 2006, Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health
- 2 Centre for Health Research and Psycho-oncology. Tracking NSW community attitudes and practices in relation to tobacco: A biennial telephone survey. March 2007. Unpublished report by The Cancer Council NSW.
- 3 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: U.S.
- 4 Repace JL. Banning Outdoor Smoking is scientifically justifiable. *Tobacco Control* 2000; 9:98 (Spring)
- 5 Repace J. Measurements of outdoor air pollution from second-hand smoke on the UMBC campus. (<http://www.repace.com/pdf/outdoor.pdf>-accessed 8 March 2007)
- 6 Boffi R, Ruprecht A, Mazza R, Ketzell M, Invernizzi G. A day at the European Respiratory Society Congress: passive smoking influences both outdoor and indoor quality (letter). *European Respiratory Journal*. 2006;27:862-863.
- 7 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Smoking: A report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA:U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, National Centre for Chronic Disease Prevention and health promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2004.
- 8 Turner P. *Air Monitoring for Cigarette Smoke*. Unpublished report for The Cancer Council NSW, 12 May 2005.
- 9 Klepeis NE, Ott WR, Switzer p. Real-Time Measurement of Outdoor Tobacco Smoke Particles. *Journal of the Air and Waste Management Association* 2007; 57:522-534.
- 10 Chapman S, Borland R, Scollo M, R C Brownson, A Dominello and S Woodward. The impact of smoke-free workplaces on declining cigarette consumption in Australia and the United States. *Am J Pub Health* 1999;89:1018-23
- 12 Cigarettelitter.org, "Cigarette Litter" <http://www.cigarettelitter.org>, Accessed May 2002
- 13 Clean Up Australia Rubbish Report 2005. Clean Up Australia Online. Accessed May 2007 at <http://www.cleanup.org.au/rubbishreport/topten.html>
- 14 Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW. NSW Extended Producer Responsibility: Priority Statement 2005-2006
- 15 (NSW) *Smoke-free Environment Act* 2000. No 69. Sydney; 2000. <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/health-public-affairs/smokefree/2000-69.pdf>

FACT SHEET 2

Sample Council report and policy



A report to Council proposing to introduce smoke-free outdoor areas should take into account the negative health aspects of second-hand tobacco smoke as well as the adverse social and environmental impact smoking in crowded outdoor areas may also have on the community.

This Fact Sheet provides a sample report to Council and a draft policy, which can be supplied electronically for Council use.



SAMPLE REPORT:

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.¹ 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.^{2,3,4,5,6} 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.⁷ 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 support smokers who are trying to quit as well as reduce their overall cigarette consumption.⁸ Fifty four percent of smokers who had tried to quit found that seeing someone with a cigarette was a trigger to relapse, while 40% said that smelling a cigarette was a trigger to relapse, according to a 2006 study.⁹

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.¹⁰ Outdoor smoking bans can help to reduce the amount of cigarette butt litter and provide a substantial cost saving through reduced clean-up costs.

Community attitudes towards smoking have changed over time. Due to the 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 banned in all enclosed public places, except the Sydney Casino. The Act does not cover outdoor public places.

There is strong public support for better and more wide-reaching tobacco control activities. In December 2006, a survey⁹ of 2,400 NSW residents found overwhelming support for smoking restrictions in the following areas:

- 92% support bans in children's playgrounds
- 85% support bans outside workplace doors/entrances
- 80% support bans in sports stadiums
- 69% support bans in outdoor dining areas
- In addition, 65% say they avoid places where they may be exposed to other peoples smoke.

Council has a role in advocating better public health for its residents. Council has existing smoking bans in place – all Council buildings are smoke-free to protect both the health of Council staff and members of the public. Health organisations are now urging stronger smoking bans in public places not yet covered by legislation.

It is proposed that in the interests of the health of our local community and environment, Council adopt a comprehensive smoke-free environment policy.

There is also evidence to suggest that smoking bans support smokers who are trying to quit as well as reduce their overall cigarette consumption.⁸ Fifty four percent of smokers who had tried to quit found that seeing someone with a cigarette was a trigger to relapse, while 40% said that smelling a cigarette was a trigger to relapse, according to a 2006 study.⁹

SAMPLE RESOLUTION:

Councils may choose to include some or all of the points listed 1-11 below. We encourage Councils to include the first four points as a minimum.

That Council adopt the attached Smoke-free Environment policy which includes banning smoking 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 sports centres);**
3. **At all events run or sponsored by Council;**
4. **In alfresco dining areas on public land;**
5. In Council's pedestrian malls/plazas;
6. Within ten (10) metres of Council owned or managed buildings including balconies or covered areas of those buildings;
7. On patrolled/all beaches;
8. In all bushland, parks and reserves;
9. Within all covered bus stops and taxi ranks
10. Within Council car parks;
11. 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.



SAMPLE COUNCIL SMOKE-FREE POLICY

Objectives

The objectives of (name) 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 beaches, waterways, parks and other open space areas.

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.

Legislation

Under the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* Council has the power to:

- Erect suitably worded and strategically placed notices in "public places" (such places including but not limited to public reserves, Crown reserves, public bathing reserves, public baths, public swimming pools, public parks and public roads) within the local government area of [locality] prohibiting smoking (see, relevantly, s.632 (1) and (2)(e) of the Act);
- Serve, by means of an authorised person, a penalty notice (Penalty: \$110.00) upon any person who fails to comply with the terms of any such notice (see, relevantly, s.679 of the Act and cl.5-7 of, and Schedule 1 to, the General Regulation);

- Demand, by means of an authorised person, the name and address of any person reasonably suspected of failing to comply with the terms of any such notice (see, relevantly, s.680 of the Act);
- Remove, by means of an authorised person, from community land any person who fails to comply with the terms of any such notice (see, relevantly, s.681 of the Act); and
- Otherwise prohibit smoking in any place within the local government area of (name), in respect of which Council is the owner or occupier, as a condition of entry to that place.

Authorised Persons

The following (name) Council staff are “authorised persons”:

- Council Rangers and
- Lifeguards.

Signage

The following Council open space areas will be signposted, wherever practicable, to provide smoke-free zones:

Examples:

- Within 10 (ten) metres of all children’s playgrounds;
- Around all Council playing fields, sporting grounds and at outdoor sporting facilities;
- On all land used for alfresco dining (alternatively lease conditions may be used).
- At all events run or sponsored by Council;

- Within 10 (ten) metres of Council owned building entrances;
- At all ocean and harbour beaches;
- In all bushland, parks, reserves and public plazas;
- In all enclosed Council car parks;
- At all covered bus stops and taxi ranks.

Signs will be installed in prominent places in the open space areas listed above. The signs will include the international no-smoking symbol and the wording: WARNING: Heavy Penalty. Regulated under s632 *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

Leases, licenses and other Council agreements

Council buildings and outdoor dining areas that are leased, licensed or hired by Council will have smoke-free clauses inserted into their agreements for use.

Enforcement of Ban

In implementing Council’s Smoke-free Policy a program of community education and awareness, specifically targeting residents and day visitors, is to be undertaken.

Enforcement of this Policy will supported by persuasion and self-policing, rather than punitive enforcement.

Related Council Policies

Smoking – Council owned buildings-

Smoking was prohibited from all Council buildings at all times from 1 May 1992.

Related Legislation

S632 *NSW Local Government Act 1993*

FOOTNOTES

- 1 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: U.S.
- 2 Repace JL. Banning Outdoor Smoking is scientifically justifiable. *Tobacco Control* 2000; 9:98 (Spring)
- 3 Repace J. Measurements of outdoor air pollution from second-hand smoke on the UMBC campus. (<http://www.repace.com/pdf/outdoor.pdf>-accessed 8 March 2007)
- 4 Boffi R, Ruprecht A, Mazza R, Ketzl M, Invernizzi G. A day at the European Respiratory Society Congress: passive smoking influences both outdoor and indoor quality (letter). *European Respiratory Journal*. 2006;27:862-863.
- 5 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Smoking: A report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA:U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, National Centre for Chronic Disease Prevention and health promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2004.
- 6 Turner P. *Air Monitoring for Cigarette Smoke*. Unpublished report for The Cancer Council NSW, 12 May 2005.
- 7 Klepeis NE, Ott WR, Switzer p. Real-Time Measurement of Outdoor Tobacco Smoke Particles. *Journal of the Air and Waste Management Association* 2007; 57:522-534.
- 8 Chapman S, Borland R, Scollo M, R C Brownson, A Dominello and S Woodward. The impact of smoke-free workplaces on declining cigarette consumption in Australia and the United States. *Am J Pub Health* 1999;89:1018–23
- 9 Centre for Health Research and Psycho-oncology. Tracking NSW community attitudes and practices in relation to tobacco: A biennial telephone survey. March 2007. Unpublished report by The Cancer Council NSW.
- 10 Clean Up Australia Rubbish Report 2005. Clean Up Australia Online. Accessed May 2007 at <http://www.cleanup.org.au/rubbishreport/topten.html>

FACT SHEET 3

Case studies : Neighbourhood friendly smoke-free councils



Outdoor smoking restrictions are becoming more common nationally and internationally. Within Australia, there is both State and Local Government legislation restricting smoking in some outdoor areas.

More than thirty NSW Councils have already introduced smoke-free outdoor areas within their localities. The areas covered by these policies vary between Councils and may include: within 10 metres of children's playgrounds, at sporting fields, alfresco dining areas, Council run and sponsored events, beaches, reserves and parks.



The following case studies provide insight into the experiences of two NSW Councils who have implemented smoke-free policies in specific outdoor public places within their communities.

MOSMAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Mosman Municipal Council first banned smoking in playgrounds, sporting fields, bushland, foreshore reserves and beaches in June 2004. Following this, in September 2004 the smoke-free bans were extended to alfresco dining areas and within 10m of Council owned buildings. These bans were so popular with residents that in 2007 the Council extended them to cover all parks, public squares, bus shelters, Council car parks, alfresco eateries and beaches. Smoking is also banned within 10m of the entrance to Council-run buildings.

Mosman Mayor, Cr Denise Wilton said, "This is an issue about health and welfare - people have a right to breathe fresh air. We're very happy we're leaders in this field and we'd invite other Councils to join us," said Cr Wilton.

Mosman Municipal Council's initiatives have received considerable support both from the local community and people living in other Council areas. In September 2004 after media publicity about Mosman's outdoor smoking bans, a National Nine News Poll asking "Should Councils ban smoking in outdoor areas?" found 77% of respondents supported such a ban.¹ Similarly, Sky News ran a poll in which 78% of respondents agreed that Councils should ban smoking in outdoor areas.² More recently, the Sydney Morning Herald conducted an online poll asking if the 2007 smoking bans introduced by Mosman Municipal Council are too harsh. 74% of respondents reported that the measures are appropriate.³

Another positive outcome for Mosman Municipal Council is the reduction in butt litter pollution and reduced cleaning costs associated with cleaning the local beaches. Less invasive beach cleaning techniques are now used, as there has been a vast reduction in cigarette litter.

Mosman Municipal Council joined neighbouring Councils, Manly and Warringah, in the Smoke-free Zones campaign to ensure that the message about the smoking bans was consistent across the local area. The Smoke-free Zones campaign was an initiative of Manly Council, to engage community support for Smoke-free Zones, rather than adopting a heavy-handed enforcement type approach. This ensures that compliance is largely self-regulated as members of the local community feel confident in pointing out the no-smoking signs to smokers, especially tourists and other visitors to the area.

For further information:

Cr Andrew Brown
Mosman Municipal Council
a.brown@mosman.nsw.gov.au
Ph. 9968 3727 Fax. 9968 4635

Max Glyde
Director Corporate Services
Mosman Municipal Council
m.glyde@mosman.nsw.gov.au
Ph.9978 4000

Jo Brama
Manly Council
Jo.Brama@manly.nsw.gov.au
Ph. 9976 1757 Fax. 9976 9976

www.smokefreecouncils.com.au



SHOALHAVEN CITY COUNCIL

Shoalhaven City Council, a popular holiday destination, is located on the NSW South Coast.

Shoalhaven City Council was one of the first Councils in NSW to introduce bans at playgrounds and sporting venues in March 2004.

Prior to introducing the policy, Shoalhaven City Council had recognised a change in community attitudes towards smoking, in particular in areas frequented by children. To address this, in March 2004 Shoalhaven City Council introduced policy on smoke-free playgrounds and outdoor sporting facilities. The policy banned smoking within 10 metres of occupied Council managed children's playground equipment, at all Council managed outdoor sporting facilities and Council run events. The policy was supported by signage at the venues, a digital and hardcopy brochure to educate the community and the option of a non-compliance penalty of \$110.

Enforcement is a frequently asked question when councils are considering bans on smoking in specific outdoor public spaces (See Fact Sheet 4). Shoalhaven City Council feels that education is a more sustainable approach than issuing fines to people who may be smoking in areas covered by the policy.

According to John Wells, Director City Services & Operations "People are quite compliant with the policy. Clear signage and information is displayed at the locations where smoking is banned. People who unknowingly smoke in an area covered by the ban are often informed by other community members that they are in a no-smoking area. In nearly all cases this is sufficient to result in the person simply moving to an area where they can smoke".

Shoalhaven City Council found local sporting associations were highly supportive of the bans. "The ban was well received by local sporting clubs. They helped Council promote the policy by informing their members, through brochures and promotional material, that Council sporting facilities were now smoke-free" said Mr Wells.

For further information:

Shoalhaven City Council

Ph: 02 4429 3111

Prior to introducing the policy, Shoalhaven City Council had recognised a change in community attitudes towards smoking, in particular in areas frequented by children. To address this, in March 2004 Shoalhaven City Council introduced policy on smoke-free playgrounds and outdoor sporting facilities.



FOOTNOTES

- 1 National Nine News Poll, Reported on National Nine News September 2004
- 2 Sky News, Willessee Across Australia Online Poll. Reported on Sky News September 2004
- 3 Sydney Morning Herald Online Poll, Reported in Sydney Morning Herald April 2007

FACT SHEET 4

Frequently asked questions



Adopting a smoke-free policy is a positive step Councils can take to help their residents enjoy a clean, healthy environment. It does however raise many questions for Councils on the practical aspects of implementing the policy.

This Fact Sheet assists Councils by addressing frequently asked questions or concerns that Councils may have. It also provides further points of contact for assistance in making their communities smoke-free.



Does the NSW Smoke-free Environment Act 2000 cover outdoor smoking areas?

No. This is State legislation and only covers public places that are defined as enclosed under the Act. Such places include the “enclosed” areas of restaurants, cafes, theatres, schools, cinemas, pubs and registered clubs.

We would like to make our Council smoke-free. Where do we start? [steps to take]

1. Contact the Regional Programs Coordinator at your local Cancer Council office, or your local National Heart Foundation office for information and support.
2. Decide on which outdoor areas you would like included in the smoking ban.
3. Prepare a report and recommendation for adoption by Council (see Fact Sheet 2)
4. Prepare a draft Smoke-free Policy for adoption by Council (see Fact Sheet 2)
5. Present the report and policy to Council for their consideration and approval
6. If successful, develop an implementation and communication plan to inform residents and the local community.

How can Council be confident the community would support outdoor smoke-free areas?

There is great community support to reduce exposure to other people’s cigarette smoke in a variety of outdoor locations. A recent survey showed a staggering **92%** supported a ban at children’s playgrounds; **69%** supported smoke-free outdoor dining; **80%** believed smoking should be banned in stadiums; and **85%** wanted bans outside workplace doors/entrances.¹



How have other Councils enforced this policy?

Most Councils have implemented their smoke-free outdoor policies through notice powers under the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*, which allows a fine for people not complying with the notice. However, it is usual practice for Council staff to inform the person/s that they are smoking in a place where it is banned, and ask them to stop, rather than issuing a fine. Most Councils find the level of community support ensures that the bans are self-enforced by community members pointing out signage to smokers or visitors.

What sort of signage is required?

Under Section 632 (1) and (2e) of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* it is necessary for Council to erect suitably worded and placed signage. The internationally recognised symbol for No Smoking is used by a number of Councils and can be easily affixed to existing signage.

Smoke-free Councils (www.smokefreecouncils.com.au) have developed a logo that is being used by a number of Councils to inform the community of the smoke-free areas. Subject to agreement with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) other Councils are able to use this logo free of charge.

We are thinking of introducing smoke-free alfresco dining on Council owned land. What is the best way to go about this?

Other Councils have introduced bans on smoking in alfresco dining areas by including smoke-free clauses in their footpath agreements. As each agreement is renewed, transferred or altered, new clauses are included that prohibit smoking and require the venues to display signage to inform patrons that the area is smoke-free. Alternately Councils can choose to erect signage adjacent to alfresco dining areas occupying public land, defining the area where smoking is prohibited. For further information regarding smoke-free alfresco dining, contact Cr Andrew Brown, Mosman Municipal Council on 02 9968 3727 or Jo Brama, Manly Council on 02 9976 1757.

What elements should be included in an education and communication plan?

Information should include a letter to all residents, signage at the nominated areas, a press release with a nominated person to act as the spokesperson for the Council, the development of a brochure and/or information on the Council website.

How much will it cost Council?

There can be some cost associated with signage, however adding the international no-smoking symbol to existing signage can reduce this cost. Some Councils have found that they have actually saved money due to reduced cleaning costs.

How many NSW Councils have introduced some form of smoking ban?

Around 30 local Councils have already introduced smoking bans in some outdoor areas. For more information visit www.cancercouncil.com.au/smokefreeoutdoors

Are there places where people can still smoke after the introduction of a smoke-free policy?

Yes, people can still smoke in outdoor areas in places where their smoke does not affect others. Signs will indicate where smoking is banned.

Aren't these restrictions taking away personal freedoms and civil liberties?

Providing smoke-free areas protects the right of the public to clean fresh air. 82% of the population are non-smokers. Providing smoke-free areas protect non-smokers and help those smokers who have decided to quit.

There is great community support to reduce exposure to other people's cigarette smoke in a variety of outdoor locations. A recent survey showed a staggering 92% supported a ban at children's playgrounds, 69% supported smoke-free outdoor dining



Cigarettes are a legal product. How can we ban their use in our community?

We do not suggest that you ban the use of cigarettes, simply restrict their use in certain areas where they have negative impacts on the community. Mobile phones are legal products however they cannot be used whilst driving. Likewise, there are restrictions on where alcohol can be consumed. Prohibitions on the use of legal products in certain defined areas protect the safety and amenity of the whole community.

What is the Butt Littering Trust?

The Butt Littering Trust (BLT) is funded by a tobacco company and states that its sole focus is to reduce the littering of cigarette butts. The BLT makes no attempt to reduce the number of people who smoke. It actively campaigned against the introduction of outdoor smoking bans in Newcastle.

There is strong evidence that smoking bans reduce the number of cigarettes smoked and encourage quitting. Reduced cigarette consumption and lower smoking rates reduce the potential for cigarette-related litter and offset the enormous personal and social costs associated with tobacco use. The introduction of smoke-free policies in locations under local government jurisdiction is a positive way to support other community quit smoking initiatives.

How can we obtain more assistance in becoming a Smoke-free Council?

For more information we encourage you to contact:

- **The Cancer Council NSW**
Ph. 02 9334 1900
www.cancercouncil.com.au/smokefreeoutdoors
- **The National Heart Foundation of Australia (NSW Division)**
Ph. 02 9219 2444
www.heartfoundation.com.au
- **Action on Smoking and Health**
Ph. 02 9334 1823
www.ashaust.org.au
- **Smoke-free Councils**
www.smokefreecouncils.com.au
- **Local Government and Shires Association**
Ph. 02 9242 4082
www.lgsa.org.au



FOOTNOTES

1 Centre for Health Research and Psycho-oncology. Tracking NSW community attitudes and practices in relation to tobacco: A biennial telephone survey, March 2007. Unpublished report by The Cancer Council NSW.