NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Smokefree Vapefree Policy Hearings and Deliberations to be held in the Council Chamber, First Floor, Civic Theatre, 88 Tay Street, Invercargill on Tuesday 10 November 2026 at 9.00 am

Cr D J Ludlow (Chair)
Mayor T Campbell
Cr A J Arnold
Cr R I D Bond
Cr P M Boyle
Cr S J Broad
Cr A H Crackett
Cr A L de Vries
Cr G M Dermody
Cr M Lush
Cr I R Pottinger
Cr B R Stewart
Cr L Tou-McNaughton
Matua M Bain

MICHAEL DAY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Smokefree Vapefree Policy Hearings and Deliberations - Public

10 November 2026 09:00 AM

Agenda Topic

Page

1. Apologies

2. Declaration of Interest

   a. Members are reminded of the need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.

   b. Elected members are reminded to update their register of interests as soon as practicable, including amending the register at this meeting if necessary.

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   3.1 Appendix 1 - Submissions to be Heard: 9

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SMOKEFREE VAPEFREE POLICY HEARINGS AND DELIBERATIONS

To:	Hearings Panel
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 10 November 2026
From:	Gillian Cavanagh, Manager – Consenting and Applications and Rhiannon Suter, Manager – Strategy, Policy and Engagement
Approved:	Jonathan Shaw, Group Manager – Consenting and Environment
Approved Date:	Thursday 29 October 2026
Open Agenda:	Yes
Public Excluded Agenda:	No

Purpose and Summary

This report presents the submissions received during public consultation on the draft Smokefree Vapefree Policy, staff analysis of the submissions, and recommendations, for hearings and deliberation by the Hearings Panel .

Recommendations

That the Hearings Panel:

1. Receives the report "Smokefree Vapefree Policy Hearings and Deliberations".

2. Receives the submissions and summary of submissions.

3. Receives the social media report.

4. Notes the hearings timetable:
   a. Submission 4276 – Amber Pascoe – 9.05am

   b. Submission 0001 – Tom Scott, National Public Health Service – 9.15am (*via MS Teams*)

   c. Submission 0002 – Bridget Forsyth, Smokefree Murihiku – 9.25am (*via MS Teams*)

5. **Agrees / disagrees** with the following recommendations regarding the Smokefree Vapefree Policy:
   a. Amend the policy to add the words "and vaping" after the word "smoking" in the first sentence of the section "Council's Responsibilities and Implementation".

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b. Endorse staff to approach NPHS to request they provide additional smokefree vapefree signage.

Recommends to the Community and Regulatory Committee to recommend to Council:

6. To adopt the Smokefree Vapefree Policy (as approved by the Community and Regulatory Committee).

Background

Council's existing Smokefree Policy was due for review and an updated draft, renamed the Smokefree Vapefree Policy, was adopted by Council for consultation on 25 August 2026. Public consultation was carried out between 14 September and 9 October. Forty submissions were received. A social media post on Facebook also received 171 comments.

Issues and Options

Analysis

Of the 40 formal submissions made on the draft policy, 18 indicated they did not support it, four supported it with changes, and the remaining 18 supported the draft policy. Of those who stated they did not support the policy, five still indicated support for aspects of the policy or for the smokefree/vapefree principle.

The comments on the Facebook post were generally negative, which is not unusual with social media forums. Around 20 or so comments were supportive of the policy or smokefree/vapefree messaging, with the vast majority expressing opposition to the policy or principle. Some comments on social media and in submissions were strongly worded, and indicated intense feelings on this matter.

Issues raised by submitters

The main reasons raised for opposing the policy were a belief it is a waste of money or a waste of Council time, or that Council should be focussed on "core services" or using money for other more essential community needs. A large number of the concerns raised focussed on the cost of signage to promote and indicate the smokefree vapefree areas. Many submitters also believed that without enforcement powers the policy is meaningless, and there is therefore no point to having it. Others objected to what they saw as overreach by Council, or argued that smoking and vaping are a personal choice, with some pointing out that smoking and vaping are not illegal activities. Some who identified as smokers or vapers felt attacked or victimised by such policies. There were some criticisms that the area designated smokefree and vapefree is too wide, though often that objection applied to the existing smokefree area, not just the additional areas proposed in the draft policy. Some people simply didn't see a need for a policy, arguing there is little cigarette litter or they don't personally have a problem with people smoking or vaping in public, or it's not needed because people already know where they should and shouldn't smoke or vape.

People who supported the policy often gave no particular reason but made comments such as it being a "good idea". Some believed smokefree spaces are expected nowadays, others endorsed Council being proactive to protect public health, and several submitters and

commenters noted the importance of keeping smoking and vaping away from children. The dangers of smoking and vaping, the increasing prevalence of vaping especially among younger people, and general public support for smokefree vapefree spaces (including locally) were all raised by submitters who supported the policy. The proposal to extend smokefree vapefree areas outside schools and Early Childhood Education centres (ECEs) was specifically mentioned as a positive measure by some submitters, including people who work in ECEs. Bus stops were also specifically endorsed, including by bus users. Concerns about the policy not being effective without enforcement measures were also raised by those who supported the policy. Some also argued for additional signage as a means of implementing the policy.

Specific suggestions by submitters

One submitter argued that medical cannabis should be included in the policy as this is becoming more common and isn't subject to the same restrictions on where it can be smoked as tobacco is. The current policy applies to "smoking devices" but doesn't specifically mention tobacco or other products, so would already cover this. Further wording on a prescribed medication is not considered necessary.

Officer recommendation: no change to draft policy

Several submitters and social media commenters suggested that Council should consider providing designated smoking/vaping areas, either in preference to the policy or to complement it. On this point, there is no particular mandate for Council to provide designated smoking/vaping areas. Under the Local Government Act 2002 (as updated by the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act 2026), the purpose of local government is to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality, cost-effective, and local infrastructure, public services and performance of regulatory functions. Council must also have particular regard to the "core services" of network infrastructure, public transport services, waste management and minimisation, emergency management, libraries, museums, reserves, and other community and recreational facilities. Whilst it could be argued that designated smoking/vaping areas could be considered "public services" and "community facilities", advice from the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions & Transport received to date would not strongly support such an interpretation of the legislation. Conversely, local authorities have a positive duty under the Health Act 1956 to "improve, promote, and protect public health within its district". Designated smoking/vaping areas approved by Council could be seen as being permissive towards smoking and vaping, which would be in direct contradiction to the duty to improve, promote and protect public health.

Officer recommendation: no change to draft policy

Regarding the cost of signage as raised by a number of people opposed to the policy, as noted in the report to this Committee on 11 August 2026, any signage provided by Council would be covered under existing operational budgets. What this means in practice is that various activities have operating budgets which include funds for necessary signage for a variety of purposes. As signs are renewed or added, which can happen for a number of reasons, smokefree vapefree messaging can be added as relevant. There will not be a need to seek additional budget for new signs just for smokefree vapefree messaging. It is also noted that the policy does not commit Council to instal signage, instead stating that smokefree vapefree areas will be supported by signage "where possible". Additionally, Council has previously facilitated the installation of signage provided and funded by third parties such as the National Public Health Service (NPHS). This type of partnership could continue to be

supported under an updated policy, which would also address the suggestions made by some submitters who supported the policy regarding additional signage.

Officer recommendation: no change to draft policy. Recommend endorsement for staff to approach NPHS to request they provide additional smokefree vapefree signage.

Regarding the concerns raised by those both for and against the policy about the policy needing enforcement measures, or being pointless without them, as noted in the report to this Committee on 11 August, Council would need to develop a bylaw if it wished to be able to legally enforce the policy. Most policies are not legally enforceable, however. The purpose of a policy is to document Council's formal position on a topic, to guide decision-making, and in this case to help promote healthy environments and positive public health messaging.

Officer recommendation: no change to draft policy

The Technical Advice provided by NPHS made three specific suggestions for changes to the policy. First, to refer to vaping alongside smoking in the section "Council's Responsibility and Implementation". This was an inadvertent omission from the draft, and as the submission notes is out of line with the rest of the document.

Officer recommendation: add the words "and vaping" after the word "smoking" in the first sentence of that section

The second suggestion from NPHS was to remove the statement in the policy around enforcement measures not being used against those who breach it, on the basis that policies are by nature non-enforceable. A third and related suggestion was to re-frame the policy in terms of a "social licence" rather than an "education policy", particularly to support members of the public who may then feel encouraged to politely let people know if they are breaching the policy. These points are acknowledged, but the existing wording reflects the intention of the policy and acts as reassurance for those who feel it might otherwise be an overreach by Council.

Officer recommendation: no change to draft policy

Several submitters made specific suggestions on measures to support implementation of the policy, such as signage (addressed above), public communications, partnering with local businesses, developing guidelines to support it, and considering the policy when reviewing other Council policies. All of these suggestions have been passed on to relevant staff for consideration if the updated policy is adopted, but since these points are about implementing the policy, it is not necessary to include them in the policy itself.

Officer recommendation: no change to draft policy

One submitter and one social media commenter raised concerns around vape shops. As noted in the report to this Committee on 11 August, Council has extremely limited ability to regulate or influence the location of vape retailers. A remit on this issue was discussed at the LGNZ AGM earlier this year.

Officer recommendation: no change to draft policy

Significance

As previously advised, this policy is considered to be of low-medium significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Options

This Hearings Panel can choose to recommend that the Community and Regulatory Committee recommends that Council adopt the updated policy with the minor wording change as identified, can direct further changes as a result of the submissions and hearings, or can choose not to recommend the updated policy to the Community and Regulatory Committee at this time (which would leave the existing policy in place, unchanged).

Community Views

This report sets out the submissions and feedback received during public consultation. As previously noted, and as raised in submissions, there is also local research on public attitudes towards smoking and vaping and their awareness of the policy, which has been shared with the members of this Hearings Panel.

Implications and Risks

Strategic Consistency

As previously advised, the draft policy as consulted on is consistent with wider Council strategy. Whilst public health messaging is primarily the responsibility of central government and organisations such as NPHS, Council can play a supporting role, whilst recognising the constraints of the Local Government Act 2002.

Financial Implications

As previously advised, there are no particular financial implications arising from the draft policy. It is the advice of staff that this policy is an appropriate and cost-effective means of supporting public health messaging.

Legal Implications

As previously advised, there are no particular legal implications arising from the draft policy itself. As noted, Council has a positive obligation under the Health Act 1954 to improve, promote, and protect public health.

Climate Change

As previously advised, there are no particular climate change impacts.

Risk

The tone of several submissions and comments indicates that there is a risk that Council is seen to be wasting resources with this policy, noting again that there are no particular financial implications arising from this policy, and that the regular review of Council policies is part of day-to-day business. Conversely, the negative reputational risk from revoking or backtracking the policy also remains.

Next Steps

If an updated policy is recommended to and adopted by Council, it will be published online. The various suggestions to support implementation will be considered by relevant staff and actioned where relevant, and work will continue to promote the policy and to encourage the public to follow it.

Attachments

1. Submissions to be heard:
   - 1.1 Submission 4276 – Amber Pascoe (ID 11292986)
   - 1.2 Submission 0001 – Tom Scott, National Public Health Service (ID 11306037)
   - 1.3 Submission 0002 – Bridget Forsyth, Smokefree Murihku (ID 11306082)
2. Submissions not to be heard (ID 11321515)
3. Summary of submissions (ID 11306135)
4. Social media report (ID 11304208)
5. Draft Smokefree Vapefree Policy 2026 (incorporating minor amendments following consultation) (ID 9501906)

Contribution ID: 4276

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Amber Pascoe
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	6th generation southlander
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9810
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	Yes
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	No
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	Ridiculous. Causes more division when the community has already had enough of the state of our town and general government. Put that money into our young minds that are failed with the funding pulled from enrich. Rate payers deserve better- better roads, better respect, and better opportunities and outcomes for future true southlanders . Our spirits are being crushed enough as it is. Let us vape and smoke ! I work in the cbd and never see butt rubbish .
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	Fix our roads. Its terrible. Also - reinstate enrich to nurture the future brilliant minds representing our community before they are crushed by a system that destroy their spark and different way of thinking. The real changes we NEED aren't more rules. And it is more togetherness ! This isn't about smoking or vaping, this is absolutely about control. Meanwhile real issues should be invested in that actually are of concern to our community. Bring back the southern spirit. Don't be like Parliament and crush people further that already have so very little to enjoy . Thank you

0001

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

25 September 2026

Invercargill City Council
Private Bag 90104
Invercargill 9840

Tēnā koutou

Technical Advice on Invercargill Smokefree and Vapefree Policy 2026

1. This technical advice has been compiled by the National Public Health Service (NPHS) Te Waipounamu region, Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora. NPHS Te Waipounamu services the South Island including Invercargill City.

2. NPHS recognises its responsibilities to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities of Aotearoa New Zealand under the Healthy Futures (Pae Ora) Act 2022 and the Health Act 1956.

3. Pae Ora requires the health sector to protect and promote healthy communities and health equity across different population groups by working together with multiple sectors to address the determinants of health.

4. NPHS is focused on the achievement of equitable health outcomes. We use the Ministry of Health | Manatū Hauora definition of equity:

> *In Aotearoa New Zealand people have differences in health that are not only avoidable, but unfair and unjust. Equity recognises different people with different levels of advantage require different approaches and resources to get equitable health outcomes.*[1]

5. This technical advice sets out matters of interest and concern to NPHS Te Waipounamu, and information included is based on evidence about public health and equity. We have also included information arising from local field research in our technical advice.

6. We welcome the opportunity to comment on the Invercargill Smokefree and Vapefree Policy 2026.

7. Health and wellbeing are influenced by a wide range of factors beyond the health sector. These factors are often referred to as the 'social determinants of health', and can be described as the

[1] Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (2024, July 2). Achieving equity. https://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/what-we-do/achieving-equity

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environmental, economic and social conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. [2]

8. The diagram[3] below shows how these determinants of health are complex and interlinked. Initiatives to improve health outcomes and overall quality of life must involve organisations and groups beyond the health sector, such as local government, if they are to have a collective impact.[4]

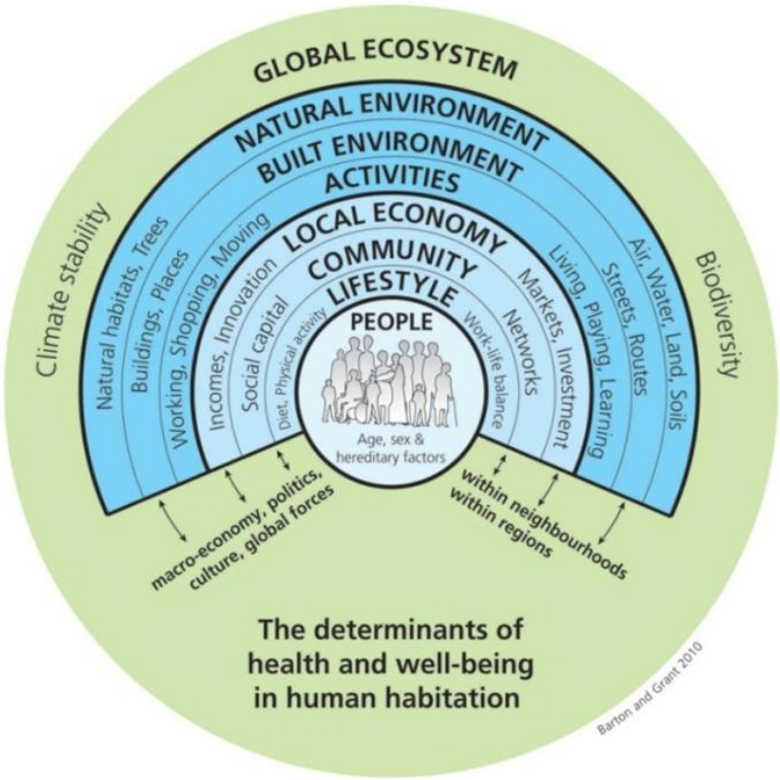


Figure 1: Social determinants of health

[2] Public Health Advisory Committee. (2004). *The Health of People and Communities. A Way Forward: Public Policy and the Economic Determinants of Health*. Public Health Advisory Committee.
https://mohlibrary.softlinkhosting.co.nz:443/liberty/OpacLogin?mode=BASIC&openDetail=true&corporation=default_corp&action=search&queryTerm=uuid%3D%225e0914be0a5a01e27fdf294000051624%22&editionUuid=5e0914be0a5a01e27fdf294000051624&operator=OR&url=%2Fopac%2Fsearch.do
3 Barton, H. & Grant, M. (2006). A health map for the local human habitat. *The Journal of the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health, 126(6),* 252-253.
https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1466424006070466
4 McGinnis J.M., Williams-Russo P. & Knickman JR. (2002). The case for more active policy attention to health promotion. Health Affairs, *21(2),* 78-93.
https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/abs/10.1377/hlthaff.21.2.78

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General

9. The National Public Health Service supports Invercargill City's Smokefree and Vapefree Policy 2026. Given the scope and application of the policy, we believe as written Invercargill City has one of the more progressive policies in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

10. We particularly support the renaming of the policy so that it applies to vaporisers (vapes). Health NZ recognises vaping as a lower-harm alternative for people who smoke and a tool to support smoking cessation.[5] However, vaping is not recommended for children or young people, or for people who do not smoke. As your staff have correctly pointed out that while the prevalence of smoking is diminishing, the prevalence of the use of vapes is increasing. Vape users tend to be younger and there is evidence of a low age of initiation.[6]

11. The fact that the policy covers six city blocks includes most Council property including parks, reserves, playgrounds, sports grounds, Splash Palace, council carparks (including Splash Palace), bus stops, public toilets and footpaths in front of Early Childhood Centres and schools makes the Invercargill City Council draft Smokefree and Vapefree Policy 2026 one of the more comprehensive policies in the country.

12. We note that throughout the policy the word vapefree is used in conjunction with smokefree. There is an exception to this in the first sentence of the paragraph on council's responsibility and implementation. We suggest after the word "smoking" that "or vaping" is added for reasons of consistency.

13. We acknowledge that the Smokefree and Vapefree Policy 2026 is a policy and as a policy it does not have enforcement provisions. We recommend that it is not necessary to repeat that in the document. We recommend Council provide that information at another location or on another platform (e.g. on their website).

14. It is our view that the policy relates to Council's social licence to support not vaping or smoking in the specified vapefree/smokefree areas. It is our experience that in referring to it as a social licence, there is endorsement for members of the public to politely approach those smoking and vaping and inform them that they are in breach of the policy. We recommend that the policy wording needs to be framed in the context of social licence rather than being described as an education policy.

15. We refer to the recent survey work conducted by Smokefree Murihiku in the Central City, South City and Bluff in 2025 and 2026. The findings referenced in your staff report indicate that while there is widespread support for the existing policy, the majority of participants were unaware it existed. We recommend sustained communication of the policy's existence and adoption within the community to further support Council's social licence for Smokefree and Vapefree areas in Invercargill. To achieve this, we would support the development of a robust

[5] Health New Zealand, Te Whatu ora: Vaping Myths and Facts. Available on: Vaping myths and facts
[6] Cardiac and Respiratory Foundation NZ. 2024 Youth Vaping Survey. Available at: https://cardiacandrespiratory.org.nz/our-work/research/youth-vaping-survey/

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communication plan to support the implementation of the Invercargill City Council draft Smokefree and Vapefree Policy 2026.

Conclusion

16. Although smoking rates in the community are declining significantly, the rates of vaping are increasing. It is for this reason that the National Public Health Service supports the renaming of your Smokefree Policy to include both Smokefree and Vapefree. The National Public Health Service fully supports the overall direction of the Policy that will impact a wide range of public venues in Invercargill including the Central Business District.

17. The National Public Health Service recommends that the policy is framed up in the context of social licence rather than community education. We also support the deletion of information relating to enforcement given that policies are not enforcement documents.

18. Given the importance of this policy and evidence to suggest the public are unaware of it, we encourage Council to develop a robust communication plan to facilitate its implementation.

19. NPHS Te Waipounamu wishes to be heard with respect to this technical advice.

Ngā mihi,

[redacted]

Vince Barry
Regional Director
National Public Health Service
Te Waipounamu Region

[redacted]

Dr Virginia McLaughlin
Medical Officer of Health
National Public Health Service
Te Waipounamu Region

Contact details

Tom Scott
NPHS Te Waipounamu
[redacted]

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0002

Tēnā koutou,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the proposed Invercargill City Council Smokefree Vapefree Policy 2026.

Smokefree Murihiku is a network of organisations and individuals committed to supporting smokefree and vapefree environments across Murihiku Southland. The coalition has a wide membership and includes representatives from the National Public Health Service Southern, Southern Stop Smoking Service, Awarua Whanau Services, Healthy Families Invercargill, Southern Cancer Society of New Zealand, and community representatives. We have been involved in local smokefree and vapefree initiatives for many years and recently undertook community engagement to help inform the current policy review. Through surveys conducted in 2024 and 2026, a total of 192 community members shared their views on the Invercargill City Council Smokefree Vapefree Policy and future directions for the policy.

Overall position

Smokefree Murihiku supports the proposed Smokefree Vapefree Policy 2026.
In particular, we support:

1. The proposed name change to "Smokefree Vapefree Policy".
2. The proposed extension of smokefree vapefree areas.
3. The commitment to actively encourage businesses operating on footpaths within smokefree vapefree areas to support the policy.

Support for the name change

We support the proposed name change as it more accurately reflects the intent and scope of the policy.

Smoking and vaping are both highly visible behaviours that influence social norms, particularly for children and young people. Explicitly acknowledging both smokefree and vapefree environments in the policy title provides clarity for the public and better reflects the reality of today's nicotine environment.

Support for extending smokefree vapefree areas

Smokefree Murihiku strongly supports extending the areas covered by the policy. Community feedback was gathered by Smokefree Murihiku and is outlined in the *Overview of Community Feedback Smokefree Murihiku* report (July 2026). This feedback

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consistently demonstrated support for expanding smokefree vapefree environments. Community surveys found that around 70% of respondents supported extending the policy area, with particularly strong support for places frequented by children, young people, and whānau.

The proposed extensions are a logical and positive next step. They will help reduce the visibility of smoking and vaping in everyday community settings, contribute to healthier public spaces, and reinforce positive social norms around smokefree and vapefree living. Smokefree Murihiku has received feedback from members of the public who value smokefree and vapefree public spaces, including at bus stops. One individual described feeling uncomfortable when people smoked or vaped nearby while she was waiting for a bus, as she needed to remain at the stop and could not easily move away.

Extending smokefree and vapefree areas to footpaths outside schools and early learning services helps create positive, child-friendly environments and reduces the visibility of smoking and vaping as they come and go from these settings. It also reduces the risk of exacerbating asthma or other respiratory symptoms from second-hand exposure.

We encourage Council to ensure clear, visible signage is installed throughout these areas to help raise public awareness and support successful implementation of the policy.

Support for engaging businesses

Smokefree Murihiku strongly supports the proposed commitment to actively encourage businesses operating on footpaths within smokefree vapefree areas to support the policy. We would be interested to understand how Council intends to implement this commitment in practice and would be happy to work alongside Council to help promote awareness of the policy and support participating businesses where appropriate.

This proposal directly responds to one of the key findings from our community engagement. Public awareness of the existing policy remains low, and many community members were unaware where smokefree vapefree areas applied. At the same time, respondents consistently identified the need for better promotion and communication of the policy. Signage was by far the most frequently suggested method of raising awareness, followed by online communication and other forms of promotion.

Businesses are highly visible and could play a crucial role in normalising a smokefree and vapefree environment in the city centre. Willing businesses could be supported to promote the policy by displaying free smokefree vapefree signage. Ongoing and regular communication with businesses and their staff would also help reinforce key messages and build greater awareness of the policy across the community.

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By encouraging willing businesses to support and help promote smokefree vapefree environments, Council can help increase awareness of the policy, reinforce positive community norms, and create a more consistent experience for residents and visitors. This collaborative approach is practical, low-cost, and aligns with the educational intent of the policy.

Closing comments

Smokefree Murihiku congratulates Invercargill City Council on undertaking this review and appreciates the willingness of Council staff to consider local community perspectives throughout the process.

We support the proposed Smokefree Vapefree Policy 2026 and believe the changes will strengthen awareness, improve consistency, and contribute to healthier environments for all people living in and visiting Murihiku.

While Smokefree Murihiku strongly supports the proposed policy, its success will ultimately depend on how visible and well understood it is within the community. Community feedback has highlighted that awareness of the current policy remains low, despite strong support for smokefree and vapefree environments. We encourage Council to increase clear, visible, and well-maintained signage throughout smokefree vapefree areas, alongside ongoing promotion through a range of communication channels. Consideration could also be given to additional opportunities to raise awareness, such as incorporating messaging into Council communications, community events, public facilities, and partnerships with local businesses and organisations.

Regular reminders will help ensure the policy remains visible, understood, and supported by residents and visitors. A strong focus on awareness and education will be key to maximising the benefits of the policy and encouraging voluntary compliance across the community.

Ngā mihi nui,

Smokefree Murihiku
Murihiku Southland

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Invercargill City Council Smokefree Policy Review 2026:

Overview of Community Feedback

Smokefree Murihiku | July 2026

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Introduction

The Invercargill City Council (ICC) Smokefree Policy aims to reduce the visibility of smoking and vaping in public places, promote clean air, and support a Smokefree Aotearoa by encouraging healthier community environments, particularly for young people.

To inform ongoing policy implementation and future decision-making, community feedback was gathered in 2024 and 2026. This feedback explored public awareness, understanding, and support for the Smokefree Policy, including its inclusion of vapefree areas, as well as perceptions of signage and opportunities for expansion.

Feedback was gathered through informal intercept interviews conducted with members of the public in 2024 and 2026. Interviews took place in Invercargill city centre, South City, Bluff, and the Southern Institute of Technology campus, with a total of 192 people participating.

Across both survey periods, findings indicate low levels of awareness of the policy, with only a minority of respondents recognising its existence and even fewer understanding that it includes vapefree areas. Knowledge of the specific locations covered by the policy was also limited. Despite this, there was strong and consistent support for extending smokefree vapefree areas to additional locations across Invercargill, particularly in high-traffic public spaces.

The research also identified low noticeability of existing signage and highlighted the importance of clear, visible communication to improve public awareness. Respondents provided a wide range of suggestions for promotion, with a strong emphasis on signage, online promotion and advertising.

Overall, the findings suggest that while awareness and understanding of the Smokefree Policy remain limited, there is broad community support for its intent and future expansion, particularly where it contributes to healthier environments and reduces exposure for children and young people.

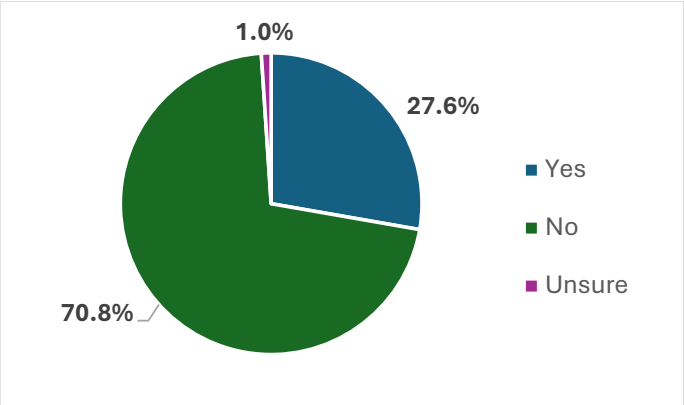


Awareness of the ICC Smokefree Policy

The 192 people who completed the short interview were asked, 'Did you know about the Invercargill City Council Smokefree Policy?' This question was asked to assess the current level of awareness of the ICC Smokefree Policy within the community.

Key Findings

Of the 192 total respondents, 53 were aware of the ICC Smokefree Policy (27.6%). 136 respondents (70.8%) were not aware of the policy, and two respondents (1%) were unsure.



Awareness of Vapefree Inclusion

In 2026, the 39 respondents who were aware of the Smokefree Policy were asked whether they knew it also included vapefree areas.

- 16 respondents (41%) did not realise vapefree was part of the policy
- 21 respondents (53.8%) did know
- 2 respondents (5.1%) were unsure

Overall, of the 125 respondents surveyed in 2026, only 21 (16.8%) were aware that the ICC Smokefree Policy includes vapefree areas.

This question aimed to assess whether people understood that designated smokefree areas are also vapefree. The results indicate that while some respondents are aware, many (49%) do not realise this.

Understanding of Policy Coverage

No respondents correctly recalled the areas designated smokefree and vapefree by the policy (i.e. the city centre, parks, reserves, playgrounds, sports fields, and the Splash Palace car park).

Only one respondent correctly identified which part of the city centre is designated smokefree and vapefree. Several others gave more general responses, such as "the inner city" or "the CBD."

Other responses included:

- "One side of Esk Street"
- "Reserves and parks"
- "Busiest areas of the CBD, the same as the alcohol ban"
- "Town, parks and hospital"
- "Council buildings, mall, Stadium, South City, Rugby Park, parks, schools and the CBD"
- "Public buildings and cars"

Support for Extending the Policy

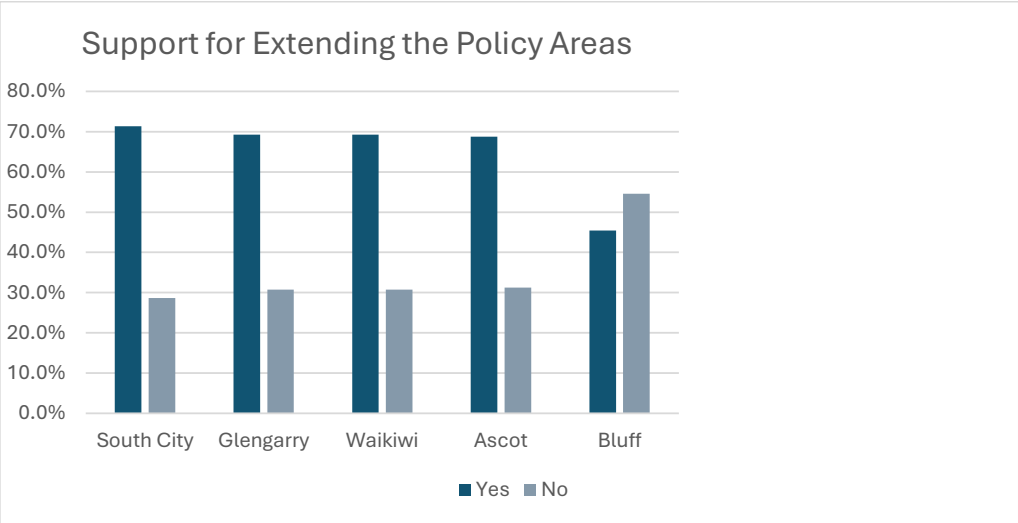
Respondents were asked:

"Aside from the areas already covered by the policy, would you support other areas of Invercargill being smokefree and vapefree? For example, other shopping areas such as South City, Glengarry, Waikiwi or Ascot?"

Freeform responses were also accepted.

Key Findings

Overall, there was strong support for extending smokefree vapefree areas to additional locations across Invercargill. There was support from approximately 70% of all respondents for each of the shopping areas (South City, Glengarry, Waikiwi and Ascot) to be included in the smokefree vapefree policy.



This consistent level of support across multiple locations suggests a broadly favourable community attitude toward expanding the policy beyond its current coverage.

The level of support indicates that many respondents are open to seeing smokefree vapefree areas applied in other high-traffic public spaces, particularly those associated with retail activity and community gathering. These areas were specifically identified as examples in the survey question, and the responses suggest they are viewed as appropriate environments for further policy application. Many respondents also emphasised the importance of reducing exposure to smoking and vaping in places where children are frequently present, with strong community support for role modelling smokefree and vapefree behaviour to young children and youth.

Respondents in Bluff were also asked whether they supported the inclusion of the Bluff main street as a smokefree vapefree area. Of the 22 respondents surveyed in Bluff, 10 (45%) expressed support for this initiative.

Compared with the Invercargill results, support in Bluff was noticeably lower, though still represents a significant proportion of respondents. This difference may indicate varying perspectives between communities, or differing views on where smokefree vapefree areas are most appropriate.

City Centre Smokefree Vapefree Signage

A total of 192 respondents participated in the survey, with 89 respondents surveyed within the Invercargill city centre. These respondents were asked: “Have you seen any Smokefree Vapefree signs in the CBD today?”

The purpose of this question was to assess the prominence of existing smokefree and vapefree signage in the city centre.

Summary of Responses

Across 2024 and 2026:

- 83 respondents (93%) reported that they had not seen any SFVF signage
- 5 respondents (6%) reported that they had seen signage
- 1 respondent (1%) was unsure

Key Findings

Overall, the findings indicate that the majority of respondents did not notice existing smokefree vapefree signage in the city centre, suggesting low visibility of current signage.

A notable trend is the decline in reported visibility over time. The proportion of respondents who had seen smokefree vapefree signage decreased from 18% (5 out of 28 respondents) in 2024 to 0% (0 out of 61 respondents) in 2026. However, this apparent change should be interpreted with caution, as the

relatively small sample sizes, particularly in 2024, mean the difference could be influenced by random variation rather than representing a true change in signage noticeability.

Promotion of Smokefree Vapefree Areas

Of the 192 respondents who participated in the survey, 173 respondents answered the question on how best to inform the public about smokefree vapefree areas in Invercargill. Responses to this open-ended question were analysed and grouped into thematic categories.

Summary of Responses

Promotion Method	Number of Mentions	Percentage of Total (192)
Signs / signage	112	58.3%
Online / social media	65	33.9%
Advertisements (any)	48	25.0%
Newspaper	18	9.4%
Billboards / digital billboards	15	7.8%
Flyers / posters	15	7.8%
Radio	14	7.3%

Overall, 90% of respondents contributed one or more ideas for informing the public about SFVF areas.

Key Findings

The most frequently suggested method of promotion was signage, identified by 112 respondents (58.3%). This highlights the perceived importance of clear, visible, on-the-ground communication.

The next most common suggestions were online and social media platforms (33.9%) and advertising in various forms (25.0%).

Other commonly mentioned approaches included billboards/digital billboards (7.8%) and flyers/posters (7.8%).

Advertising Channels

Among those who referenced advertising, respondents suggested a range of specific channels, including:

- Newspapers (9.4%)
- Radio (7.3%)

- Television
- TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, SoundCloud
- Digital billboards at the mall
- Advertising at the start of movies
- Social media platforms generally

Additional Promotion Ideas

Several additional ideas were mentioned by multiple respondents, including:

- Use of the ICC website and/or social media
- Word of mouth
- Promoting in schools
- Footpath signage
- Raising awareness through community education
- Events or seminars
- Approaching people directly (e.g. pop-up stalls)

A wider range of other suggestions were also provided, including:

- Via ICC emails
- Notices sent with rates
- Through churches
- Banners
- Door-to-door promotion
- Council messaging more broadly
- Drawing a border around the SFVF area in the CBD
- Promotion at live music events
- Promotion at skate events
- Posters at pubs
- Use of a megaphone
- Billboards at entry points to Invercargill via state highways and at the airport
- Information at vape shops
- Mail drops
- Use of a Tourist Information Centre
- Have no vape stores in the CBD
- A-frame footpath signs

Conclusion

The findings from community feedback gathered in 2024 and 2026 highlight a clear contrast between low levels of awareness and strong levels of support for the Invercargill City Council Smokefree Policy. While most respondents were not aware of the policy or its full scope, particularly its inclusion of vapefree areas, there was broad agreement with its purpose and intent.

Feedback indicates that the community largely supports the creation and expansion of smokefree vapefree environments, especially in areas where people gather and where children and young people are present. The importance of reducing exposure, protecting public health, and role modelling positive behaviours for young people was a consistent theme across responses.

At the same time, the findings highlight key areas for improvement. The feedback suggests there is an opportunity to further strengthen the reach of current communication and promotion efforts, as well as enhance the noticeability of existing signage and understanding of where the policy applies.

Respondents provided a wide range of suggestions for promoting the policy, with a strong emphasis on increasing the amount of signage, alongside broader promotion through advertising, community engagement, and online.

Overall, the results suggest that strengthening awareness and communication is likely to enhance the impact of the policy. With a solid foundation of community support already in place, there is a clear opportunity to build on this by improving how the policy is communicated and understood, supporting its ongoing success and potential expansion across Invercargill.



APPENDIX: INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Survey: Invercargill Smokefree Policy Date: _____

CBD South City

1) Did you know about the Invercargill City Council Smokefree policy?
   Yes [ ] No [ ] **(If answered 'No', go to Q5)** Unsure [ ]

2) Did you know that it also includes vaping?
   Yes [ ] No [ ] Unsure [ ]

3) Do you know where the policy covers? Yes [ ] No [ ]
   a. If yes, ask where? _____
      _____
      _____

4) Do you know what part of the CBD is included in the smokefree vapefree area?
   a. Yes If yes, ask where: Correct [ ] Incorrect [ ]
   b. No

5) Aside from the areas already covered by the policy ***(insert brief explanation, if not already discussed*)*** - would you support other areas of Invercargill to also be Smokefree and Vapefree? For example other shopping areas such as
   a. South City [ ]
   b. Glengarry [ ]
   c. Waikiwi [ ]
   d. Ascot [ ]
   e. Other areas: e.g. council car parks _____
      _____

6) What's the best way to inform the public about the SFVF areas in Invercargill?_
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

7) **(For CBD pedestrians only)**
   Have you seen any SFVF signs in the CBD today? Yes [ ] No [ ] Unsure [ ]

*** The CBD, all parks, playgrounds, reserves, sports grounds and Splash Palace including the car park.**

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8) Age range <18 19-30 31-50 51-65 65+

9) Do you smoke and/or vape? Smoke Y / N Vape Y / N Rather not say

10) And finally, what do you think are some benefits from having the Smokefree Vapefree areas?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Thank you for your time.

(Optional)

If you feel strongly about Smokefree & Vapefree in Invercargill I'd encourage you to keep an eye out for any public consultation opportunities when the ICC are reviewing this policy.

Survey: Invercargill Smokefree Policy Date: / / Bluff

1) Did you know about the Invercargill City Council Smokefree policy?
   Yes [ ] No [ ] **(If answered 'No', go to Q5)** Unsure [ ]

2) Did you know that it also includes vaping?
   Yes [ ] No [ ] Unsure [ ]

3) Do you know where the policy covers? Yes [ ] No [ ]
   a. If yes, ask where? _____
      _____
      _____

4) Do you know what part of the Invercargill city centre is included in the smokefree vapefree area?
   a. Yes If yes, ask where: Correct [ ] Incorrect [ ]
   b. No

5) Aside from the areas already covered by the policy ***(insert brief explanation, if not already discussed*)*** - would you support other areas of Invercargill to also be Smokefree and Vapefree? For example
   a. Bluff main street [ ]
   b. South City [ ]
   c. Glengarry [ ]
   d. Waikiwi [ ]
   e. Ascot [ ]
   f. Other areas: e.g. council car parks, other areas in Bluff _____
      _____

6) What's the best way to inform the public about the SFVF areas?_
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

7) Age range <18 19-30 31-50 51-65 65+

8) Do you smoke and/or vape? Smoke Y / N Vape Y / N Rather not say

*** The CBD, all parks, playgrounds, reserves, sports grounds and Splash Palace including the car park.**

10

9) And finally, what do you think are some benefits from having the Smokefree Vapefree areas?

_____
_____
_____
_____

Thank you for your time.

(Optional)

If you feel strongly about Smokefree & Vapefree in Bluff I'd encourage you to keep an eye out for any public consultation opportunities when the ICC are reviewing this policy.

Survey: Invercargill & SIT Smokefree Policy Date: 11 Feb 2026

~~CBD~~ ~~South City~~ **SIT**

1) Did you know about the Invercargill City Council Smokefree policy?
   Yes [ ] No [ ] (If answered 'No', go to Q5) Unsure [ ]

2) Did you know that it also includes vaping?
   Yes [ ] No [ ] Unsure [ ]

3) Do you know where the policy covers? Yes [ ] No [ ]
   a. If yes, ask where? _____
      _____
      _____

4) Do you know what part of the CBD is included in the smokefree vapefree area?
   a. Yes If yes, ask where: Correct [ ] Incorrect [ ]
   b. No

5) Aside from the areas already covered by the policy *(insert brief explanation, if not already discussed*)* - would you support other areas of Invercargill to also be Smokefree and Vapefree? For example other shopping areas such as
   a. South City [ ]
   b. Glengarry [ ]
   c. Waikiwi [ ]
   d. Ascot [ ]
   e. Other areas: e.g. council car parks _____
      _____

6) What's the best way to inform the public about the SFVF areas in Invercargill?_
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

7) Were you aware that the entire SIT campus is smokefree and vapefree?
   Yes [ ] No [ ] Unsure [ ]

8) Age range <18 19-30 31-50 51-65 65+

*** The CBD, all parks, playgrounds, reserves, sports grounds and Splash Palace including the car park.**

Document Set ID: 11306082
Version: 1, Version Date: 14/10/2026

9) Do you smoke and/or vape? Smoke Y / N Vape Y / N Rather not say

10) And finally, what do you think are some benefits from having the Smokefree Vapefree areas?

_____
_____
_____
_____

Thank you for your time.

(Optional)

If you feel strongly about Smokefree & Vapefree in Invercargill I'd encourage you to keep an eye out for any public consultation opportunities when the ICC are reviewing this policy.

Contribution ID: 4251

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Richard Johnson
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9879
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	Yes
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	Very happy with them thank you. Sensible.
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	Well done.

Contribution ID: 4253

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Andrew Thompson-Davies
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9812
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	Yes
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	Great idea. Pleased to see council actively discouraging smoking and vaping in public places.
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	

Contribution ID: 4254

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Kerry pink
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9872
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	No
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	Yes to the no smoking but vaping no except around schools I do agree to that but everything else no
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	

Contribution ID: 4255

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Deb Lovett
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9812
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	Yes
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	Definitely make it vapefree and smokefree
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	

Contribution ID: 4256

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Thalia
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	New world
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9810
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	Yes
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	Yes
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	No
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	

Contribution ID: 4257

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Aiden
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	Greypower nz
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9884
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	No
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	It should be up too use to make these discions
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	No

Contribution ID: 4258

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Annamarie Jacob Thomas
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9812
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	Yes
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	There needs to be a way to enforce this, otherwise it's a waste of money to purely change the signage. I have had unfortunate experiences with individuals smoking in playgrounds, blatantly ignoring existing signage and verbal requests to smoke elsewhere. If there are no consequences, there will be limited efficacy.
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	

Contribution ID: 4259

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Zoe Smith
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9812
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	No
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	Ridiculous, omg what next...get a grip you non smokers, when is this dictatorship going to end....
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	Concentrate on important things, stop wasting time and money, maybe then you wouldn't have to raise our rates every year.

Contribution ID: 4260

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Paul Chulis
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9810
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	Yes
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	No
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	We pay taxes aswell so why ban smoking
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	

Contribution ID: 4261

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Haley Dreaver
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9810
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	No
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	No
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	No

Contribution ID: 4262

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Jo
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9813
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	No
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	It is an open air area. I as a caper because I can't afford to smoke anymore are sick and tired of being treated like I don't belong in society. This is just another straw heading to break the camels back
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	Most of the capers and smokers I have met are respectful of the people around them and most non capers or non smokers I have met don't have an issue with us. It seems to be more a government (either local or national) lead campaign against us

Contribution ID: 4263

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Susannah
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9810
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	Yes
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	As a bus user, a park user, and an ECE teacher I REALLY endorse this proposal. At our ECE centre, which is in the middle of town, we regularly have people vaping as they walk past, and drive past (we are on a main intersection controlled by lights). The smoke blows straight into our centre and into the air of our tamariki. As a bus user it is really unpleasant when some people are extremely inconsiderate and disrespectful and vape in bus stops while other users are waiting for their bus. It is also people who walk past bus stops vaping- there is no where for us to go and we get bombarded by their smoke.
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	

Contribution ID: 4264

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Jase McNaught
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9812
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	No
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	Waste of money as it's a bit of a non issue and won't be policed. Far more concerning things in our city.
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	Icc have secured a world class event at rugby Park freestyle kings but half our seating is missing. How can we entice super rugby to come back or bigger events with half our seating missing. It's embarrassing.

Contribution ID: 4265

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Darlene Mackenzie
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9877
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	No
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	It's outdoors your proposals, nobody owns the air, if you can't smoke /vape indoors, you can't stop people doing either in such wide vast areas your stating . Alcohol in certain areas in cbd , yes but you're absolutely dictating something that you cannot police . It's not illegal to smoke or vape.
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	

Contribution ID: 4266

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Monique rolton
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	SixthSense cleaning
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9812
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	No
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	How much will it cost to - 1: make all the signage 2: pay the workers to install 3: replace when damaged or vandalized.. ABSOLUTE waste of ratepayers money. Money could be better spent on things ACTUALLY needed or to provide something enjoyable for our community
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	

Contribution ID: 4270

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Scott Henderson
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9810
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	Yes
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	Sounds good
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	

Contribution ID: 4271

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Anonymous
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9810
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	No
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	Absolutely stupid! Stop wasting ratepayers money on dumb things like this. This could be better spent on upgrades to your facilities.
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	Please stop wasting ratepayers money on STUPID things!

Contribution ID: 4272

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Nic Gibbs-Reid
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	No
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	Please have signposted smoking and vaping areas to direct those interested in using them. If you do not provide these spaces then of course people will use carparks and bus shelters. Those not interested will avoid these areas. You might even make them pretty/ sheltered/ out of public view. Wild.
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	

Contribution ID: 4274

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Nicola Milne
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9814
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	No
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	So I'm a vaper and actually don't vape around kids areas etc but this is a bit of education for you. Did you know that there are all this places we can't vape/smoke but there are more and more people getting medical weed cards which means they can smoke weed anywhere. So you can banned smoking outside schools but parents can smoke weed. So I think as the times are changing and medical weed is becoming more accessible this should be included
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	

Contribution ID: 4275

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Hogan Bernette
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9810
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	No
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	Waste of time
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	Concentrate on core business

Contribution ID: 4277

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Matthew Milner
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9812
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	Yes, with changes
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	Seems pretty stupid to ban smoking anywhere that vehicles are able to be used, I would think that the exhaust gas coming from them would reduce air quality far more than a person smoking. Unless this is about trying to control people based on a moral ground, in that case I don't support the move
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	

Contribution ID: 4278

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Karen Pickford
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9879
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	Yes
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	I have read the comments on the FB post and see a lot of criticism around the cost, policing of the ban and the legitimacy when smoking and vaping are not illegal. However, I feel that this is a community issue that the council should be involved in and agree with extending the no smoking ban to include vaping and to include more public areas. This will make the proposed public areas nicer for those who do not want to be breathing in secondhand smoke or the 'flavours' of a vape. It is not saying people can't smoke or vape just that it the by-product does encroach on others and thus it is not acceptable in certain areas.
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	

Contribution ID: 4279

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Jane Thompson
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9812
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	Yes
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	Clear signage referring to smoking and vaping is necessary. And possibly some reminders in likes of Southland express re what areas are to be smoke/vape free. And encouragement for people to walk those few metres out of these areas to vape/smoke.
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	

Contribution ID: 4280

Q1 **Name**

Short Text: Adi

Q2 **Organisation**

Short Text:

Q5 **Postcode**

Number: 9810

Q7 **Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**

Multi Choice: No

Q8 **Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**

Multi Choice: No

Q9 **Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**

Long Text: Please look at the cost versus benefit of this 'policy' carefully. Specially when the council has no teeth to implement this policy, any investment has to be weighed with care. For example, council might end up spending a tidy packet on vape free signs with no real outcome achieved in terms of reduced vaping

Q10 **Is there anything else you want to tell us?**

Long Text: yes. So that these 'consultations' do not end up being a tick in the box aka farce, do include cost estimates and other high level implementation details with these proposals. A leading question like, "should the council promote vape free ...." will usually elicit a response=YES. However, if you tell me that the council will spend, say, $1M of ratepayer monies on putting up vape free signs around town, my answer would be a BIG NO!!!

Contribution ID: 4281

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Bolger Shane
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9810
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	No
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	Waste of money when its not enforceable.
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	Stop wasting money.

Contribution ID: 4282

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Vana Davis
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	Private
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9810
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	Yes
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	Yes
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	Years ago we made the decision to designate our Restaurant/ Bar smoke free,way back in the 80s. It was extremely accepted with the public,NO questions asked. Tillerman Restaurant. YMCA & Don St.
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	Smoking & vaping in any public arena is simply NOT acceptable today. People expect to have clean air to breath. It's just a a given today.

Contribution ID: 4283

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Aroha
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9810
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	No
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	My thought is no. As this is only a health guide. Smokers and Vapers have already been told they have to be outside. And unless council are going to have a designated area for Smokers and Vapers. To go then this is a waste of time. And a waste of money. With having to also make these area.On the odd occasion when I have been in central city. There is hardly any Smokers or Vapers. So is the need really there. I think not. Also the cost of the signage how much is that going to cost. When these are only Health warnings. Which people will ignore.
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	

Contribution ID: 4284

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Robert Evans
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	98979
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	Yes
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	All ok as it is.
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	

Contribution ID: 4286

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Bryce McMillan
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9810
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	Yes, with changes
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	Policy says the money is already aside for signage Do we have any idea what that cost actually is? All for smoke free but surely people know where smoking and vaping are not acceptable
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	

Contribution ID: 4295

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Milton Dakers
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9810
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	Yes, with changes
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	Who will police the new area's to be smoke and vape free
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	

Contribution ID: 4297

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Greg Braddock
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9812
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	Yes
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	I support the proposal to extend smoke free/vape free around schools and preschool (including public access ways I.e. footpaths etc). Working in a centrally located ECE centre we experience second hand smoke from passers by on a daily basis. However I have concerns about how the law can be enforced.
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	

Contribution ID: 4304

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Charmin Dahl
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	Number 10 SYOSS
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9810
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	Yes
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	I support the proposed Policy, particularly around adding vaping and around signage. In addition to the signage proposed in Draft for Consultation, I would support signage at all bus stops, starting with those that have shelters. In addition, it would be great to have a digital version of a sign that businesses/orgs could print themselves for windows or events.
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	

Contribution ID: 4305

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Jay Coote
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	Southland Kindergarten Association
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9810
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	Yes
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	When ICC proposes Early Childhood Education facilities, do they mean every single one? even the private ones?
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	What kind of policing and reprecussions will there be for offenders, these types of things need to be made aware as well.

Contribution ID: 4307

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Anna Hoek-Sims
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9013
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	Yes
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	Amazing, may all the other councils in NZ follow if they haven't already!
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	Vaping should be banned on the main CBD streets of every city.

Contribution ID: 4308

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Jordan
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	No
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	Playgrounds and splash palace I can get behind but not the cbd or reserves
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	

Contribution ID: **4328**

Q1 **Name**

Short Text: Invercargill City Youth Council

Q2 **Organisation**

Short Text: Invercargill City Council

Q5 **Postcode**

Number: 9810

Q7 **Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**

Multi Choice: Yes

Q8 **Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**

Multi Choice: Yes, with changes

Q9 **Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**

Long Text:

With the prevalence of vaping in our society*, Youth Council are highly concerned for the continued health outcomes of Invercargill residents, especially the youth demographic (ages 12-24). Vaping and smoking causes harm, and the proposed Smokefree Vapefree Policy contributes toward harm reduction and improving health outcomes. If there are more positive smokefree vapefree environments promoted, young people are less likely to pick up vaping or smoking later in life if they understand the negative impacts this could have on their health and those around them.

We support the proposed policy with the additions, but we also have some suggested changes. Changing the name to Smokefree Vapefree Policy makes sense. Extending the zones in front of childcare centres and schools, and Council facilities including bus stops is important for the health outcomes for the children and youth attending those facilities, as well as the wider public. Promotion of the Policy within the city centre is essential to behaviour change. Youth Council support the stated purpose of the Policy which includes the promotion of visible smokefree vapefree environments as this helps young people understand negative health impacts, therefore encouraging positive health outcomes. We support National Public Health Service's stance on renewing and refurbishing existing and faded smokefree signage. We request that Council establish specific guidelines for the Smokefree Vapefree Policy, detailing what "enhanced signage and encouraging businesses" entails, as the current phrasing is vague. Examples of signage would be beneficial within said guidelines, as well as defining visual standards, like suggesting logos, appropriate smokefree vapefree messaging and using bilingual wording i.e. English and Te Reo Māori.

Having vape stores within the city centre that is currently a smokefree vapefree area is not ideal, especially when Council are encouraging other businesses to adopt a smokefree vapefree stance. We advise that Council make use of the CBD coordinator role to act as a conduit between the businesses and Council to promote the renewed Smokefree Vapefree Policy, once it is adopted, and encourage retailers to display smokefree vapefree signage on their premises.

Youth Council supports the line in the Policy "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". When the Footpath Management Policy next comes up for review, please consider the Smokefree Vapefree Policy commitments in the writing and organisational licencing within the Footpath Management Policy.

*according to community feedback from Smokefree Murihiku's Invercargill Smokefree Policy Survey 2024 & 2026, and statistics from Youth Council's 2023 Vaping Survey.

Q10 **Is there anything else you want to tell us?**

Long Text: It would be good to see guidelines and an action plan developed in response to the adoption of a renewed Smokefree Vapefree Policy, so that the public and internal staff can understand how to best implement the purpose and principles of smokefree vapefree environments.

Contribution ID: 4329

Q1	**Name**
Short Text	Yvette Hodges
Q2	**Organisation**
Short Text	
Q5	**Postcode**
Number	9810
Q7	**Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?**
Multi Choice	No
Q8	**Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?**
Multi Choice	Yes
Q9	**Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?**
Long Text	Yes I fully support the policy and commend the Council for being so proactive. It's great to see Invercargill leading the way with innovative ideas like smokefree vapefree footpaths outside schools and early learning services. This costs nothing but benefits our community now and in the future. I support all the updates in the 2026 policy.
Q10	**Is there anything else you want to tell us?**
Long Text	I would like to see more signage in the smokefree vapefree areas and more promotion of the policy, to raise awareness. I think it's good to emphasise the purpose being around role-modeling to tamariki, and normalising smokefree vapefree lifestyles. For these reasons, it is encouragement for people who smoke or vape to choose to do it elsewhere. Regarding promotion of the policy, perhaps you could inform visitors with promo billboards displayed on the highways on entry to Invercargill and at the airport.

Submission ID	Name	Organisation	Postcode	Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?	Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?	Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?	Is there anything else you want to tell us?	Summary	Officer response
4251	Richard Johnson		9879	No	Yes	Very happy with them thank you. Sensible.	Well done.	Supports policy as sensible.	
4253	Andrew Thompson-Davies		9812	No	Yes	Great idea. Pleased to see council actively discouraging smoking and vaping in public places.		Supports policy. Great idea and pleased to see ative discouragement of smoking and vaping in public places.	
4254	Kerry Pink		9872	No	No	Yes to the no smoking but vaping no except around schools I do agree to that but everything else no		Does not support updated policy but supports aspects. Agrees with no smoking, and agrees with no vaping around schools, but otherwise disagrees with vaping being included.	
4255	Deb Lovett		9812	No	Yes	Definitely make it vapefree and smokefree		Supports policy and making it vapefree and smokefree.	
4256	Thalia	New world	9810	Yes	Yes	No		Supports policy.	
4257	Aiden	Greypower nz	9884	No	No	It should be up too use to make these discions	No	Does not support policy, believes it should be personal choice.	
4258	Annamarie Jacob Thomas		9812	No	Yes	There needs to be a way to enforce this, otherwise it's a waste of money to purely change the signage. I have had unfortunate experiences with individuals smoking in playgrounds, blatantly ignoring existing signage and verbal requests to smoke elsewhere. If there are no consequences, there will be limited efficacy.		Does not support policy. Argues no point unless it can be enforced, would just waste money changing signage. Believes limited efficacy without consequences.	
4259	Zoe Smith		9812	No	No	Ridiculous, omg what next...get a grip you non smokers, when is this dictatorship going to end....	Concentrate on important things, stop wasting time and money, maybe then you wouldn't have to raise our rates every year.	Does not support policy. Sees this as a waste of time and money, and overreach by Council.	
4260	Paul Chulis		9810	Yes	No	We pay taxes aswell so why ban smoking		Does not support policy because they already pay taxes.	
4261	Haley Dreaver		9810	No	No	No	No	Does not support policy.	
4262	Jo		9813	No	No	It is an open air area. I as a vaper because I can't afford to smoke anymore are sick and tired of being treated like I don't belong in society. This is just another straw heading to break the camels back	Most of the vapers and smokers I have met are respectful of the people around them and most non vapers or non smokers I have met don't have an issue with us. It seems to be more a government (either local or national) lead campaign against us	Does not support policy. Feels excluded as a vaper. Argues it is open air area.Believes most vapers and smokers are respectful of others and non-vapers and non-smokers don't have any issues. Feels vapers and smokers are being campaigned against.	
4263	Susannah		9810	No	Yes	As a bus user, a park user, and an ECE teacher I REALLY endorse this proposal. At our ECE centre, which is in the middle of town, we regularly have people vaping as they walk past, and drive past (we are on a main intersection controlled by lights). The smoke blows straight into our centre and into the air of our tamariki. As a bus user it is really unpleasant when some people are extremely inconsiderate and disrespectful and vape in bus stops while other users are waiting for their bus. It is also people who walk past bus stops vaping- there is no where for us to go and we get bombarded by their smoke.		Supports policy. Strongly endorses policy, especially as an ECE teacher experiencing smoke blowing into ECE centre from passers by. Also speaks as a bus user and pedestrian and finds it unpleasant when people vape at bus stops.	
4264	Jase McNaught		9812	No	No	Waste of money as it's a bit of a non issue and won't be policed. Far more concerning things in our city.	Icc have secured a world class event at rugby Park freestyle kings but half our seating is missing. How can we entice super rugby to come back or bigger events with half our seating missing. It's embarrassing.	Does not support policy. Sees it as a waste of money without enforcement, and believes this is a bit of a non-issue compared to more pressing concerns in our city.	
4265	Darlene Mackenzie		9877	No	No	It's outdoors your proposals, nobody owns the air, if you can't smoke /vape indoors, you can't stop people doing either in such wide vast areas your stating . Alcohol in certain areas in cbd , yes but you're absolutely dictating something that you cannot police . It's not illegal to smoke or vape.		Does not support policy. Believes you can't stop people smoking or vaping in vast outdoor areas, can't be policed. Notes it's not illegal to smoke or vape.	
4266	Monique Rolton	SixthSense cleaning	9812	No	No	How much will it cost to - 1: make all the signage 2: pay the workers to install 3: replace when damaged or vandalized.. ABSOLUTE waste of ratepayers money. Money could be better spent on things ACTUALLY needed or to provide something enjoyable for our community		Does not support policy. Believes signage would be a waste of money better spent on actual necessities or providing something enjoyable for community.	Signage costs are within existing budgets
4270	Scott Henderson		9810	No	Yes	Sounds good		Supports policy.	

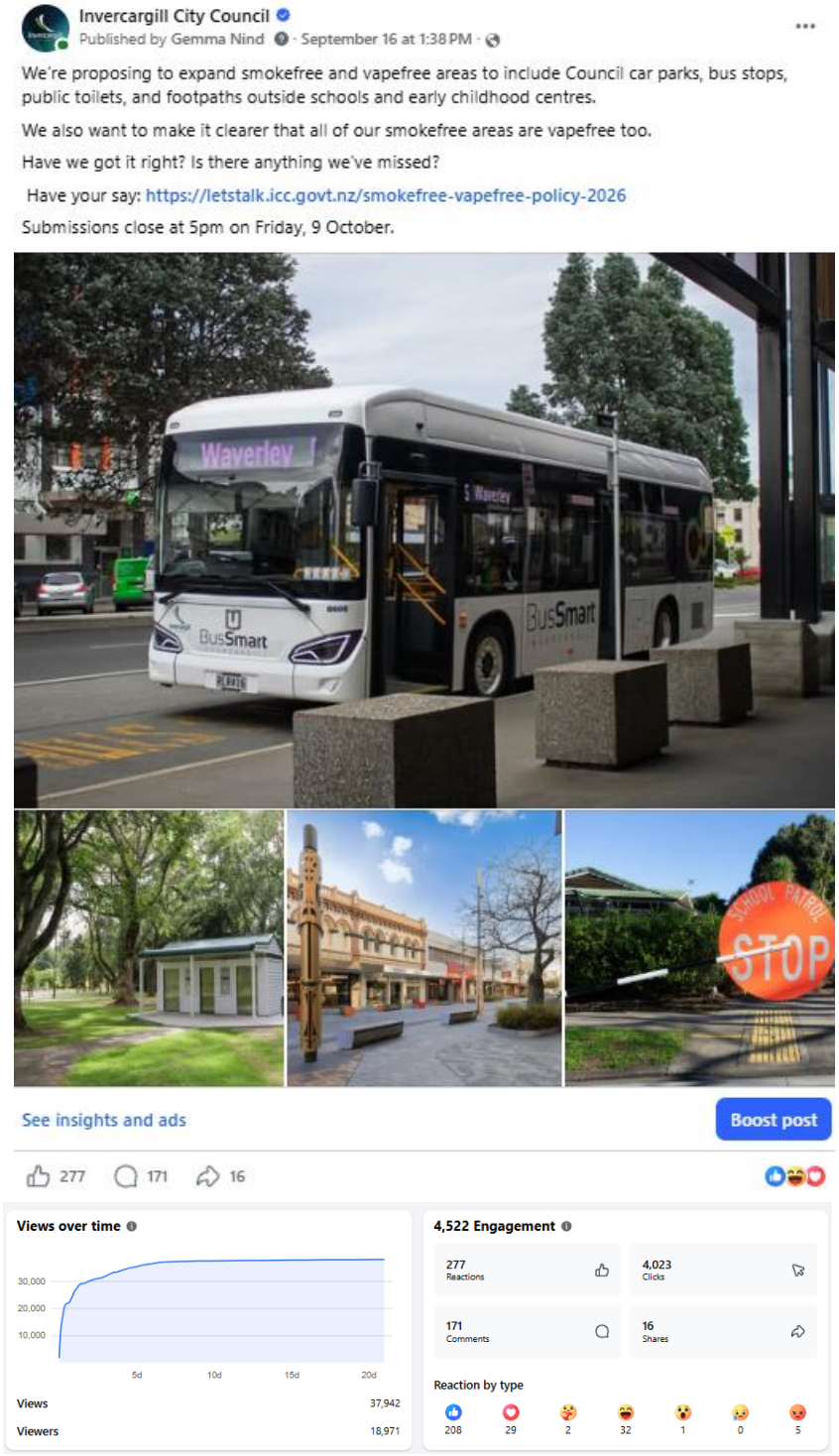
Submission ID	Name	Organisation	Postcode	Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?	Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?	Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?	Is there anything else you want to tell us?	Summary	Officer response
4271	Anonymous		9810	No	No	Absolutely stupid! Stop wasting ratepayers money on dumb things like this. This could be better spent on upgrades to your facilities.	Please stop wasting ratepayers money on STUPID things!	Does not support policy. Believes this is a waste of ratepayer money which could be better spent on uprading Council facilities.	
4272	Nic Gibbs-Reid			No	No	Please have signposted smoking and vaping areas to direct those interested in using them. If you do not provide these spaces then of course people will use carparks and bus shelters. Those not interested will avoid these areas. You might even make them pretty/ sheltered/ out of public view. Wild.		Does not support policy. Suggests Council should instead designate and signpost smoking and vaping areas.	
4274	Nicola Milne		9814	No	No	So I'm a vaper and actually don't vape around kids areas etc but this is a bit of education for you. Did you know that there are all this places we can't vape/smoke but there are more and more people getting medical weed cards which means they can smoke weed anywhere. So you can banned smoking outside schools but parents can smoke weed. So I think as the times are changing and medical weed is becoming more accessible this should be included		Does not support policy. Argues smoking/vaping of medical cannabis should be included as this is becoming more of a problem than smoking or vaping tobacco products.	
4275	Hogan Bernette		9810	No	No	Waste of time	Concentrate on core business	Does not support policy. Believes it's a waste of time and Council should concentrate on core business.	
4276	Amber Pascoe	6th generation southlander	9810	Yes	No	Ridiculous. Causes more division when the community has already had enough of the state of our town and general government. Put that money into our young minds that are failed with the funding pulled from enrich. Rate payers deserve better- better roads, better respect, and better opportunities and outcomes for future true southlanders . Our spirits are being crushed enough as it is. Let us vape and smoke ! I work in the cbd and never see butt rubbish .	Fix our roads. Its terrible. Also - reinstate enrich to nurture the future brilliant minds representing our community before they are crushed by a system that destroy their spark and different way of thinking. The real changes we NEED aren't more rules. And it is more togetherness ! This isn't about smoking or vaping, this is absolutely about control. Meanwhile real issues should be invested in that actually are of concern to our community. Bring back the southern spirit. Don't be like Parliament and crush people further that already have so very little to enjoy . Thank you	Does not support policy. Argues it causes division and money would be better spent elsewhere. Notes cigarette litter is not an issue in the CBD. Believes we need more togetherness, not more rules. Believes policy is about control.	Enrich@ILT is not owned, operated or funded by Council
4277	Matthew Milner		9812	No	Yes, with changes	Seems pretty stupid to ban smoking anywhere that vehicles are able to be used, I would think that the exhaust gas coming from them would reduce air quality far more than a person smoking. Unless this is about trying to control people based on a moral ground, in that case I don't support the move		Supports policy with changes. Believes exhaust fumes would be more of a concern than cigarette smoke. Would not support policy if it was about trying to control people based on a moral ground.	
4278	Karen Pickford		9879	No	Yes	I have read the comments on the FB post and see a lot of criticism around the cost, policing of the ban and the legitimacy when smoking and vaping are not illegal. However, I feel that this is a community issue that the council should be involved in and agree with extending the no smoking ban to include vaping and to include more public areas. This will make the proposed public areas nicer for those who do not want to be breathing in secondhand smoke or the 'flavours' of a vape. It is not saying people can't smoke or vape just that it the by-product does encroach on others and thus it is not acceptable in certain areas.		Supports policy. Believes smoking and vaping is a community issue which Council should be involved in, to make public areas nicer for non-vapers and non-smokers. Notes policy doesn't prevent people vaping or smoking, just not to do it where it can encroach on others.	
4279	Jane Thompson		9812	No	Yes	Clear signage referring to smoking and vaping is necessary. And possibly some reminders in likes of Southland express re what areas are to be smoke/vape free. And encouragement for people to walk those few metres out of these areas to vape/smoke.		Supports policy. Suggests clear signage needed, as well as public notices and encouraging people to move away from smokefree/vapefree areas to smoke or vape.	

Submission ID	Name	Organisation	Postcode	Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?	Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?	Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?	Is there anything else you want to tell us?	Summary	Officer response
4280	Adi		9810	No	No	Please look at the cost versus benefit of this 'policy' carefully. Specially when the council has no teeth to implement this policy, any investment has to be weighed with care. For example, council might end up spending a tidy packet on vape free signs with no real outcome achieved in terms of reduced vaping	yes. So that these 'consultations' do not end up being a tick in the box aka farce, do include cost estimates and other high level implementation details with these proposals. A leading question like, "should the council promote vape free ...." will usually elicit a response=YES. However, if you tell me that the council will spend, say, $1M of ratepayer monies on putting up vape free signs around town, my answer would be a BIG NO!!!	Does not support policy. Argues any cost associated with policy unlikely to result in real benefits. Suggets more financial information and high level implementation detals should be provided, and to avoid leading questions.	The report to the Community and Regulatory Committee on 11 August noted that any costs would be met within existing budgets
4281	Bolger Shane		9810	No	No	Waste of money when its not enforceable.	Stop wasting money.	Does not support policy. Believes it's a waste of money when it's not enforceable.	
4282	Vana Davis	Private	9810	Yes	Yes	Years ago we made the decision to designate our Restaurant/ Bar smoke free,way back in the 80s. It was extremely accepted with the public,NO questions asked. Tillerman Restaurant. YMCA & Don St.	Smoking & vaping in any public arena is simply NOT acceptable today. People expect to have clean air to breath. It's just a a given today.	Supports policy. Notes strong public support for smokefree areas for decades, with people nowadays expecting clean air and finding smoking and vaping in public unacceptable.	
4283	Aroha		9810	No	No	My thought is no. As this is only a health guide. Smokers and Vapers have already been told they have to be outside. And unless council are going to have a designated area for Smokers and Vapers. To go then this is a waste of time. And a waste of money. With having to also make these area.On the odd occasion when I have been in central city. There is hardly any Smokers or Vapers. So is the need really there. I think not. Also the cost of the signage how much is that going to cost. When these are only Health warnings. Which people will ignore.		Does not support policy. Sees this as a waste of time and money and doesn't see many smokers or vapers in public anyway. Believes people will only ignore health warnings. Suggests could be improved if Council were to designate a smoking/vaping area.	
4284	Robert Evans		98979	No	Yes	All ok as it is.		Supports policy.	
4286	Bryce McMillan		9810	No	Yes, with changes	Policy says the money is already aside for signage Do we have any idea what that cost actually is? All for smoke free but surely people know where smoking and vaping are not acceptable		Supports policy with changes. Supports smokefree but concerned about costs involved with signage, when people already know where smoking and vaping is unacceptable.	
4295	Milton Dakers		9810	No	Yes, with changes	Who will police the new area's to be smoke and vape free		Supports policy with changes, asking how the policy would be enforced.	Policy is for education only and will not be policed or enforced
4297	Greg Braddock		9812	No	Yes	I support the proposal to extend smoke free/vape free around schools and preschool (including public access ways I.e. footpaths etc). Working in a centrally located ECE centre we experience second hand smoke from passers by on a daily basis. However I have concerns about how the law can be enforced.		Supports policy, particularly extending smoke/vapefree around ECEs and schools. Experiences second hand smoke daily from passers by in centrally located ECE centre. But has concerns about enforceability.	
4304	Charmin Dahl	Number 10 SYOSS	9810	No	Yes	I support the proposed Policy, particularly around adding vaping and around signage. In addition to the signage proposed in Draft for Consultation, I would support signage at all bus stops, starting with those that have shelters. In addition, it would be great to have a digital version of a sign that businesses/orgs could print themselves for windows or events.		Supports policy. Suggests additional signage needed, especially around bus stops and shelters. Suggets a digital version of a smokefree/vapefree sign would be helpful for businesses and organisations to be able to print and display.	
4305	Jay Coote	Southland Kindergarten Association	9810	No	Yes	When ICC proposes Early Childhood Education facilities, do they mean every single one? even the private ones?	What kind of policing and reprecussions will there be for offenders, these types of things need to be made aware as well.	Supports policy but queries scope and enforcement measures.	Policy proposes all registered ECE centres. Policy is for education only and will not be policed or enforced

Submission ID	Name	Organisation	Postcode	Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?	Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?	Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?	Is there anything else you want to tell us?	Summary	Officer response
4307	Anna Hoek-Sims		9013	No	Yes	Amazing, may all the other councils in NZ follow if they haven't already!	Vaping should be banned on the main CBD streets of every city.	Supports policy, thinks all councils should follow suit and ban vaping in all CBDs.	
4308	Jordan			No	No	Playgrounds and splash palace I can get behind but not the cbd or reserves		Does not support policy as it applies to CBD and reserves. Does support smokefree vapefree in playgrounds and splash palace.	The CBD and Reserves are already designated smokefree (and vapefree) under the existing policy
4328	Invercargill City Youth Council	Invercargill City Council	9810	Yes	Yes, with changes	With the prevalence of vaping, YC are highly concerned for the continued health outcomes of Invercargill residents, especially youth. Vaping and smoking causes harm, and the proposed Policy contributes to harm reduction and improving health outcomes. If there are more positive smokefree vapefree environments promoted, young people are less likely to pick up vaping or smoking later in life if they understand the negative impacts this could have. Changing the name makes sense. Extending the zones in front of childcare centres and schools, and Council facilities including bus stops is important for the health outcomes for the children and youth attending those facilities, as well as the wider public. Promotion of the Policy within the city centre is essential to behaviour change. YC support the promotion of visible smokefree vapefree environments as this helps young people understand negative health impacts, therefore encouraging positive health outcomes. We support NPHS's stance on renewing and refurbishing existing and faded smokefree signage. Request Council establish guidelines for the Policy, detailing what "enhanced signage and encouraging businesses" entails, as the current phrasing is vague. Examples of signage would be beneficial, as well as defining visual standards, like suggesting logos, appropriate smokefree vapefree messaging and using bilingual wording i.e. English and Te Reo Māori. Having vape stores within the city centre is not ideal, especially when Council are encouraging other businesses to adopt a smokefree vapefree stance. We advise that Council use CBD coordinator role to promote the renewed Policy, once it is adopted, and encourage retailers to display smokefree vapefree signage on their premises. YC supports the line in the Policy "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". When the Footpath Management Policy next comes up for review, please consider the Smokefree Vapefree Policy commitments in the writing and organisational licencing within the Footpath Management Policy.	It would be good to see guidelines and an action plan developed in response to the adoption of a renewed Smokefree Vapefree Policy, so that the public and internal staff can understand how to best implement the purpose and principles of smokefree vapefree environments.	Supports the policy with changes. Suggests Council should develop guidelines and action plan to support implementation, including examples of signage. Suggests using CBD coordinator role to promote policy. Recommends considering smokefree vapefree commitments when next reviewing the Footpath Management Policy.	This Policy may be considered when the Footpath Management Policy is next reviewed
4329	Yvette Hodges		9810	No	Yes	Yes I fully support the policy and commend the Council for being so proactive. It's great to see Invercargill leading the way with innovative ideas like smokefree vapefree footpaths outside schools and early learning services. This costs nothing but benefits our community now and in the future. I support all the updates in the 2026 policy.	I would like to see more signage in the smokefree vapefree areas and more promotion of the policy, to raise awareness. I think it's good to emphasise the purpose being around role-modeling to tamariki, and normalising smokefree vapefree lifestyles. For these reasons, it is encouragement for people who smoke or vape to choose to do it elsewhere. Regarding promotion of the policy, perhaps you could inform visitors with promo billboards displayed on the highways on entry to Invercargill and at the airport.	Supports policy. Notes Council is being proactive and innovative. Recommends more signage and promotion to raise awareness, and encourage the role-modelling of smokefree vapefree lifestyles to children.	
0001	National Public Health Service (Technical Advice)	Health New Zealand		Yes	Yes	NPHS technical advice endorses updated policy, noting it is one of the more progressive and comprehensive in NZ. Supports name change, highlighting particular concerns around vaping. Suggests vaping should be referred to in paragraph on Council's responsibility for consistency. Recommends removing statement around non-enforcement. Recommends changing wording of "education policy" to re-frame in the context of "social licence".	Recommends development of a robust communication plan to support implementation of policy, noting Smokefree Murihiku research indicating low levels of public awareness of policy.	Supports policy. Suggests amendments to improve consistency, and re-frame in the context of promoting a social licence. Recommends developing a robust communication plan to support implementation.	

Submission ID	Name	Organisation	Postcode	Do you want to speak to elected members about your submission at a hearing?	Do you support the updated Smokefree Vapefree Policy?	Do you have any comments or feedback about the proposed changes or the policy in general?	Is there anything else you want to tell us?	Summary	Officer response
0002	Smokefree Murihiku	Smokefree Murihiku		Yes	Yes	Supports proposed policy, in particular the name change, extension of areas, and commitment to actively encourage businesses operating on the footpath in smokefree vapefree areas to support the policy. Includes local research indicating strong support for expanding smokefree vapefree environments. Recommends extending signage to raise public awareness. Notes low public awareness of policy, suggests local businesses could play key role in promoting and supporting policy.	In addition to increased signage, recommends other means of promoting policy such as incorporating messaging into Council communications, community events, public facilities, and partnerships with local businesses and organisations.	Supports policy. Notes local research showing strong support but low awareness of policy. Recommends increasing signage, working with local businesses and increasing public messaging.	

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John R W Kerr · 2w
I'm not a smoker now but I did smoke an you need to have a place for smokers as government make there money 🤑 so ask them to build these places not council money 🤑

Reply Hide Edited

Stevirae Hobson · 2w
People are gng to smoke & vape regardless lol. But if you had a space for them, respectfully it would be a different outcome.

Reply Hide

Allan Michael · 2w
Why i pay tax ill smoke where i want

Reply Hide

Drome Vaineritua · 2w
Crazy how yous think people are gonna listen

Reply Hide

Merlene Thommy · 2w
You council are annoying me iv rang many times to tell youz about block drainz youz do nothing. So if we get flooded youz pay for people damage property. Youz .as youz don't care about prevention. Lindisfarne st was a frikin lake but again youz did nothing ..can see why people get angry with youz .I can remember years bk a man dumped a truck load of horse [redacted] at your front doors .now I understand .you do nothing to prevent a disaster .

Reply Hide

Merlene Thommy · 2w

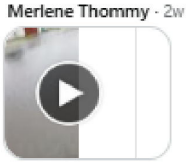


Reply Hide

Merlene Thommy · 2w
Why dont youz focus on important things prevention. Durrrrrrrr

Reply Hide

Merlene Thommy · 2w



Reply Hide

Smokefree Vapefree Policy 2026 – Social Media Report

Phonex Citrine Ra-moon · 2w



Reply Hide

Mandy Corbett · 2w
bloody ridiculous in a windy country.

Reply Hide

Cardean Annson · 2w
So we are paying money for new signs etc but it's not an enforceable law.
Why would you even be looking at this total waste of money?
How much has already been spent on a useless bylaw that's not enforceable?

Reply Hide

Jeza Lemz · 2w
Careful folks, this is a slippery slope to Ultra Low Emissions Zones.

Reply Hide

Tim Page · 2w
Please ban fun next so we can complete being a cash cow robot.

Reply Hide Edited

Dallas Hansen · 2w
Is this what you [redacted] people get paid for? Invercargill City Council wasting money on stupid [redacted] as usual, instead of going after people for smoking or vaping how about you [redacted] fix the roads? Or i dont know USE YOUR [redacted] BRAIN clean the city up, get onto the contractors you use and light a fire under their [redacted]. I have no idea how any of you survive. Its alright though because as long as its not in your neighborhood or on your front door you don't care.

Reply Hide Edited

Amanda Barrett · 2w
While we place the smokers and vapers in naughty corners but make an absolute *killing* on the taxes
Well played

Reply Hide

Sarah J Lynch · 2w
Far out... But far fetched tbh, there isn't that many vaping and smoking as it is in town anyway. Do something productive instead, like, idk, make parking free in the weekends or something

Reply Hide

Andrew Foster · 2w
You can't enforce it so it seems abit pointless

Reply Hide

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Adi Go · 2w
I clicked on the link for the "consultation" and submitted my response. May I make a submission? So that these 'consultations' do not end up being a tick in the box aka farce, do include cost estimates and other high level implementation details with these proposals when you put them out for 'consultation'. A leading question like, "should the council promote vape free ...." will usually elicit a response=YES from most. However, if you tell me that the council will spend, say, $1M of ratepayer monies on putting up vape free signs around town, my answer would be a BIG NO!!!

Reply Hide

Rosie Halligan-van Riel · 2w
Great idea. Fully support this

Reply Hide

Jane Thompson · 2w
These comments sure show the level of understanding people have for what was even in the post. Do people not realise policies that are held within council get reviewed from time to time. That the council actually are expected to review them. A lot of areas that are "smoke free" like say the pool carpark, around the stadium, etc have signs asking for people not to smoke, does this signage need to include vaping as well? I think it should. Just cause a vape smells a bit better dosent mean it's healthy. And people who would say oh but people don't vape or smoke in these areas must be blind with no sense of smell. I've watched people walk thru supermarkets with vapes in their hands and I've seen people put them in their mouths. I've watched parents as I drive past schools out on the street vaping. Yes it's personal choice but the question is should certain areas be smoke and vape free? It's not just about the vaper/smokers health but about children and other adults, and education.

Reply Hide

Shirlene McIntyre · 2w
I say, instead of wasting rate payer money on this, and use it to subsidise our wheel alignments, or just fix our [redacted] city streets!

Reply Hide

Warren Anderson · 2w
So you're takin away our rights to smoke and vape outside what next police state you clown's

Reply Hide

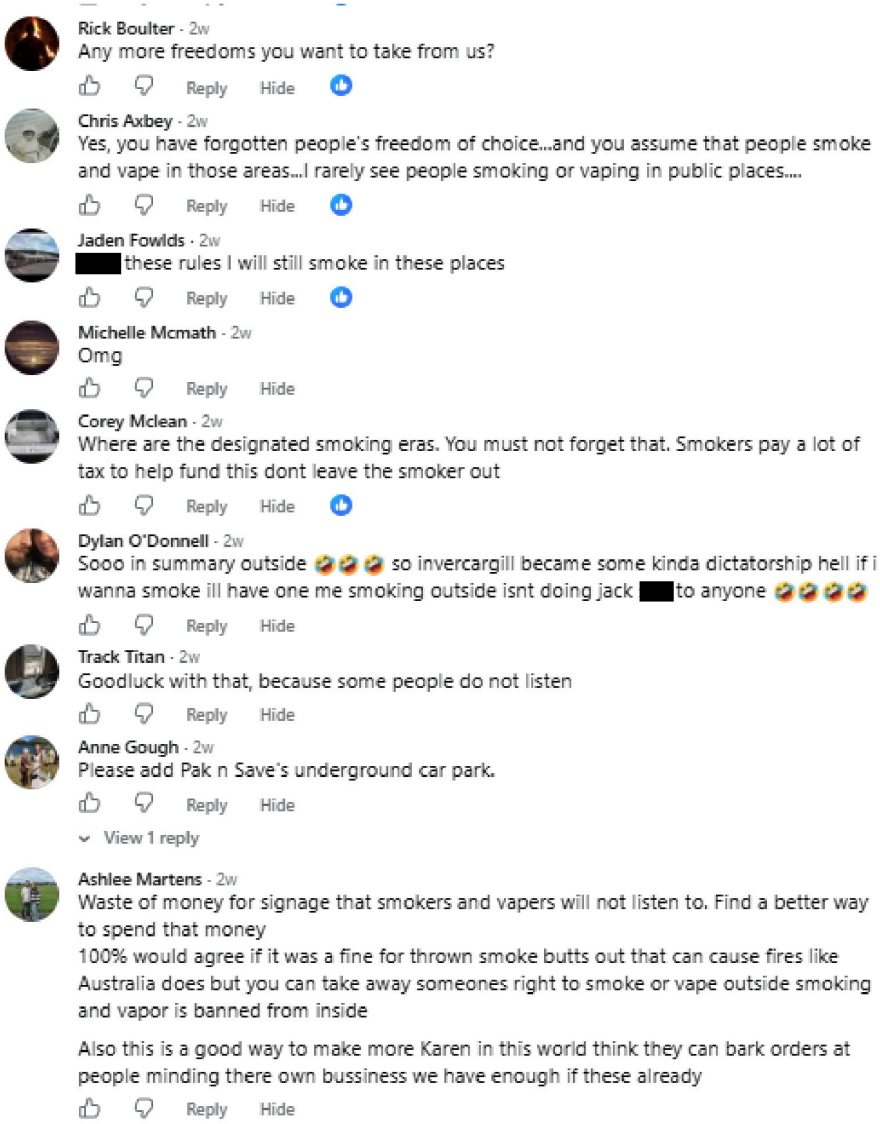
Tracey Rose Carroll · 2w
As a vaper and if I am walking (not very often) I always check who is around me before I vape. Not everyone likes the flavors of some vapes so I am cautious of who is around me... otherwise I just won't vape... for me it's just a habit just like when I was smoking but it didn't matter who was around..

Reply Hide

Amber Pascoe · 2w
Or m a y b e... put that absolute waste of rate payers money back into Enrich to make good use of the bright children that will actually make a difference in our community in the future - rather then getting crushed in a school system not built for them. Just an idea

Reply Hide

Smokefree Vapefree Policy 2026 – Social Media Report



Rick Boulter · 2w
Any more freedoms you want to take from us?
Reply Hide

Chris Axbey · 2w
Yes, you have forgotten people's freedom of choice...and you assume that people smoke and vape in those areas...I rarely see people smoking or vaping in public places....
Reply Hide

Jaden Fowlds · 2w
[redacted] these rules I will still smoke in these places
Reply Hide

Michelle Mcmath · 2w
Omg
Reply Hide

Corey Mclean · 2w
Where are the designated smoking eras. You must not forget that. Smokers pay a lot of tax to help fund this dont leave the smoker out
Reply Hide

Dylan O'Donnell · 2w
Sooo in summary outside 🤣🤣🤣 so invercargill became some kinda dictatorship hell if i wanna smoke ill have one me smoking outside isnt doing jack [redacted] to anyone 🤣🤣🤣🤣
Reply Hide

Track Titan · 2w
Goodluck with that, because some people do not listen
Reply Hide

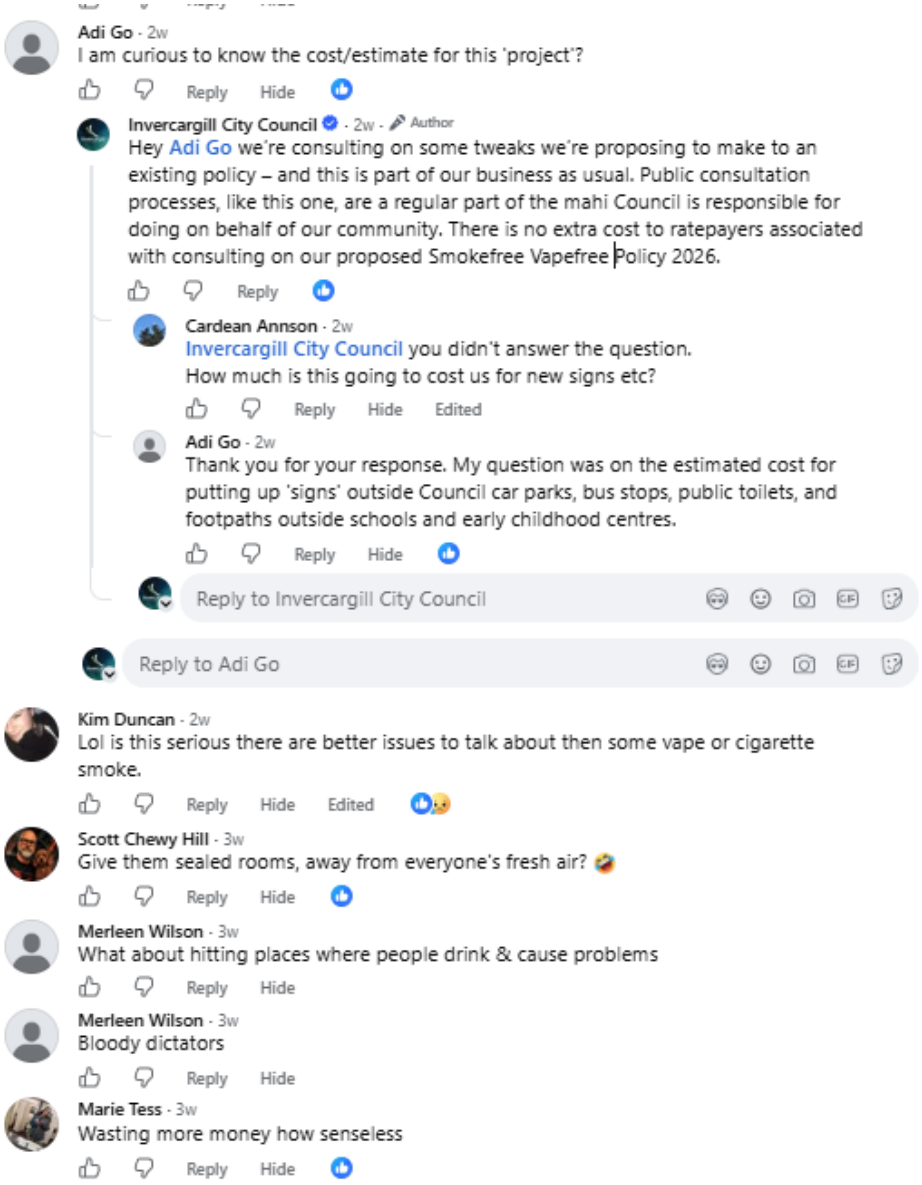
Anne Gough · 2w
Please add Pak n Save's underground car park.
Reply Hide
View 1 reply

Ashlee Martens · 2w
Waste of money for signage that smokers and vapers will not listen to. Find a better way to spend that money
100% would agree if it was a fine for thrown smoke butts out that can cause fires like Australia does but you can take away someones right to smoke or vape outside smoking and vapor is banned from inside

Also this is a good way to make more Karen in this world think they can bark orders at people minding there own bussiness we have enough if these already
Reply Hide

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Phips Angel · 3w
As a non smoker I don't care as they have already been kicked outside, an it's not hard to avoid a smoker vaper just move out of the direction of the smell, however you still allow [redacted] ride the bus..so..until you actually police they people non of us want to be around..leave the soft targets alone

Reply Hide

Joshua Down · 3w
Blanket the country with a smoke free ban would be best,but then we all know ram raids and the like will run its course..vaping never was a cure,just another problem,and worse seeing young kids trying it out,dang I was 5/6 trying my 1st ciggy out,and also buying them for mum and dad by getting them to write a note,because they were hung over🤣🤣🤣. It'll be a hard road but something that could happen.

Reply Hide

Ken Hopgood · 3w
ask Luxton to police it..if he can afford 30 police for the Auckland Transport, he surely can afford 2-3 to police this at invercargill..after all to date National have done nothing for Invercargill this last 3 years..

Reply Hide Edited

Monique An Bryson Baratcart · 3w
Invercargill City Council Tom Campbell Mayor of Invercargill listen to the people... 90% of ratepayers/commenters think its a waste of time and a MASSIVE waste of tax/ratepayers money.. MASSIVE WASTE OF MONEY BETTER PUT TO SOMETHING WE CAN ACTUALLY ENJOY

Reply Hide

Monique An Bryson Baratcart · 3w
How [redacted] stooooopid

Reply Hide

Alan Dunkley · 3w
Money b better spent pulling that burnt dump of a building down in dee street what an eye sore with such new buildings across the road .

Reply Hide

Invercargill City Council · 3w · Author
Hey Alan, we know it has been a long time, espically for businesses in the area to be dealing with the impacts of this situation. We want to see it resolved too but we also have an obligation to make sure the appropriate legal and regulatory processes are followed.
The owner has now applied for resource consent to demolish the building. As it is listed as a Category 2 historic place by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, there are statutory processes that must be followed. A hearing is scheduled for next month, and as the regulatory authority, Council must allow that process to run independently and cannot predetermine the outcome. You can read more about it here https://www.icc.govt.nz/news-events/public-notices...

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Alan Dunkley · 3w
What a load of [redacted] gezzzz you won't be able to go out in the rain shortly this is a bit over the top where did all the freedom go
Reply Hide

Joe Black · 3w
Well, if it's not enforceable, why are you wasting time, effort and resources on this? Shouldn't the focus only be on essential projects and cost savings?
Reply Hide

Peter Newton · 3w
I think you have missed the bus get out of town
Reply Hide

Maree Beker · 3w
.this ban would include all workers who have to vacate the workplace and smoke or vape outside.... I think there are better things for the council to be concentrating on to help our quiet city rather than putting more customer deterants in place. .
Reply Hide

Tania Kuiti · 3w
City council should concentrate on more important issues, like the data center in makarewa, that no one wants.
Reply Hide

Bernadette Kitson · 3w
Money spent on signage is just a waste. Seriously getting ridiculous. 🙄 not enforceable... nobody owns the air outside .
Reply Hide

Marty Garrick · 3w
Leave us alone we can decide if we are near enough to a smoker not you
Reply Hide

Marty Garrick · 3w
Freedom and cost of policing
Reply Hide

Kieran Thomson · 3w
Try and stop me see how that goes also. Sort your parking warden out before someone else does power tripping [redacted] he is
Reply Hide

Stephen Clover · 3w
So what!!!!!
Reply Hide

Christine Brown · 3w
Another lets waste money again....the rate payers wont notice..
Reply Hide

Smokefree Vapefree Policy 2026 – Social Media Report



Christine Brown · 3w
Another lets waste money again....the rate payers wont notice..
Reply Hide

Kay-Larni Tai · 3w
Thats an idea but wouldn't designating an area for the smokers/vapers be much more effective? Idk im only sharing my thoughts but i do know there are some public that would read the signs and do it it any way regardless.
Reply Hide

Freitag Crusoe · 3w
I wouldn't say you've got it right. Toilets and bus stops ? Crazy
Reply Hide

Invercargill City Council · 3w · Author
Freitag Crusoe make sure you pop your feedback in the link above please
Reply

Zoe Smith · 2w
Invercargill City Council nothin beats waiting for the bus and having a dart. Don't be so miserable.
Reply Hide

Reply to Invercargill City Council

Reply to Freitag Crusoe

Michael Oliver · 3w
Contradicting [redacted] off. Control n power can be shoved up where the sun don't shine. I am not paying rates for this [redacted] n have not payed for a year. [redacted] .if you Wana take freedom from me [redacted] coz that's the only way it will happen or should we turn it round n take yours
Reply Hide

Demelza Watt · 3w
Perhaps one step towards this is by not permitting so many vape shops to be in the city and suburbs....?
Reply Hide

Anne Gough · 2w
Demelza Watt Here, here, I thought the law was that they weren't allowed to open these horrible things within a certain distance to schools !! Why then are there three of them within a couple of blocks , close to Newfield park school ??
Reply Hide

Reply to Demelza Watt

Reina M Robinson · 3w
How much will this "nice idea" cost us ratepayers please?? Considering we ALL must tighten our belts in this economy COUNCIL INCLUDED!!
Reply Hide

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Invercargill City Council · 2w · Author
Reina M Robinson We're consulting on some tweaks we're proposing to make to an existing policy – and this is part of our business as usual. Public consultation processes, like this one, are a regular part of the mahi Council is responsible for doing on behalf of our community. There is no extra cost to ratepayers associated with consulting on our proposed Smokefree Vapefree Policy 2026.
Reply

Reply to Reina M Robinson

Sue Hansen · 3w
Smoking vaping IS NOT ILLEGAL.
Im a Non smoker but feel for the smokers that you make feel like they are criminals. There is a lot more stress on hospitals, families, from heart disease and other illnesses, not just cigarettes.
Reply Hide

Janine Murray · 3w
How totally ridiculous. So very hard to patrol, so why make stupid bans such as this.....such a huge waste of time.
(Obviously you guys don't have much to do in the council offices)
Reply Hide

Damian Bye · 3w
So where are our designated vaping and smoking zones then?.....
Should it not work both ways❓
Reply Hide Edited

David Rasmussen-Ward · 2w
Damian Bye I agree designated spaces. Both are not good for your health.
Reply Hide

Reply to Damian Bye

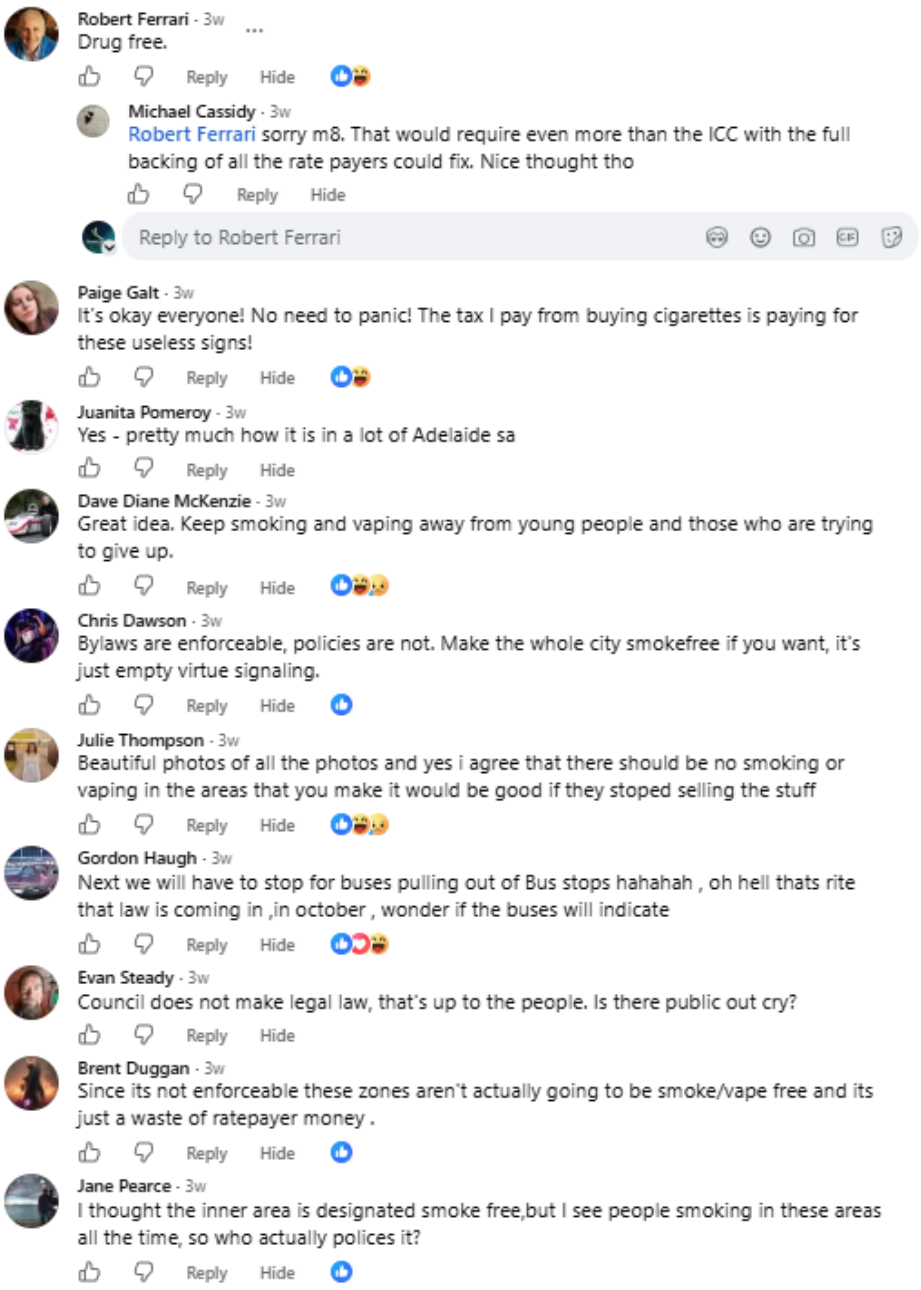
Lloyd Bryant · 3w
People should have the right to walk around public areas without having smoke/ vape blown in their faces! Disgusting habit!
Reply Hide

Daz Smith · 3w
Faffing around the fringes...surely your staff have got better things to do like delivering core council business
Reply Hide

Andrew Rolfe · 3w
If this is the case with no smoking, should we be putting designated smoking areas up around the the town?.
Reply Hide

Michael Cassidy · 3w
Time for a big fat cigar outside ICC office. Lmfao
Reply Hide

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Robert Ferrari · 3w ...
Drug free.
Reply Hide

Michael Cassidy · 3w
Robert Ferrari sorry m8. That would require even more than the ICC with the full backing of all the rate payers could fix. Nice thought tho
Reply Hide

Reply to Robert Ferrari

Paige Galt · 3w
It's okay everyone! No need to panic! The tax I pay from buying cigarettes is paying for these useless signs!
Reply Hide

Juanita Pomeroy · 3w
Yes - pretty much how it is in a lot of Adelaide sa
Reply Hide

Dave Diane McKenzie · 3w
Great idea. Keep smoking and vaping away from young people and those who are trying to give up.
Reply Hide

Chris Dawson · 3w
Bylaws are enforceable, policies are not. Make the whole city smokefree if you want, it's just empty virtue signaling.
Reply Hide

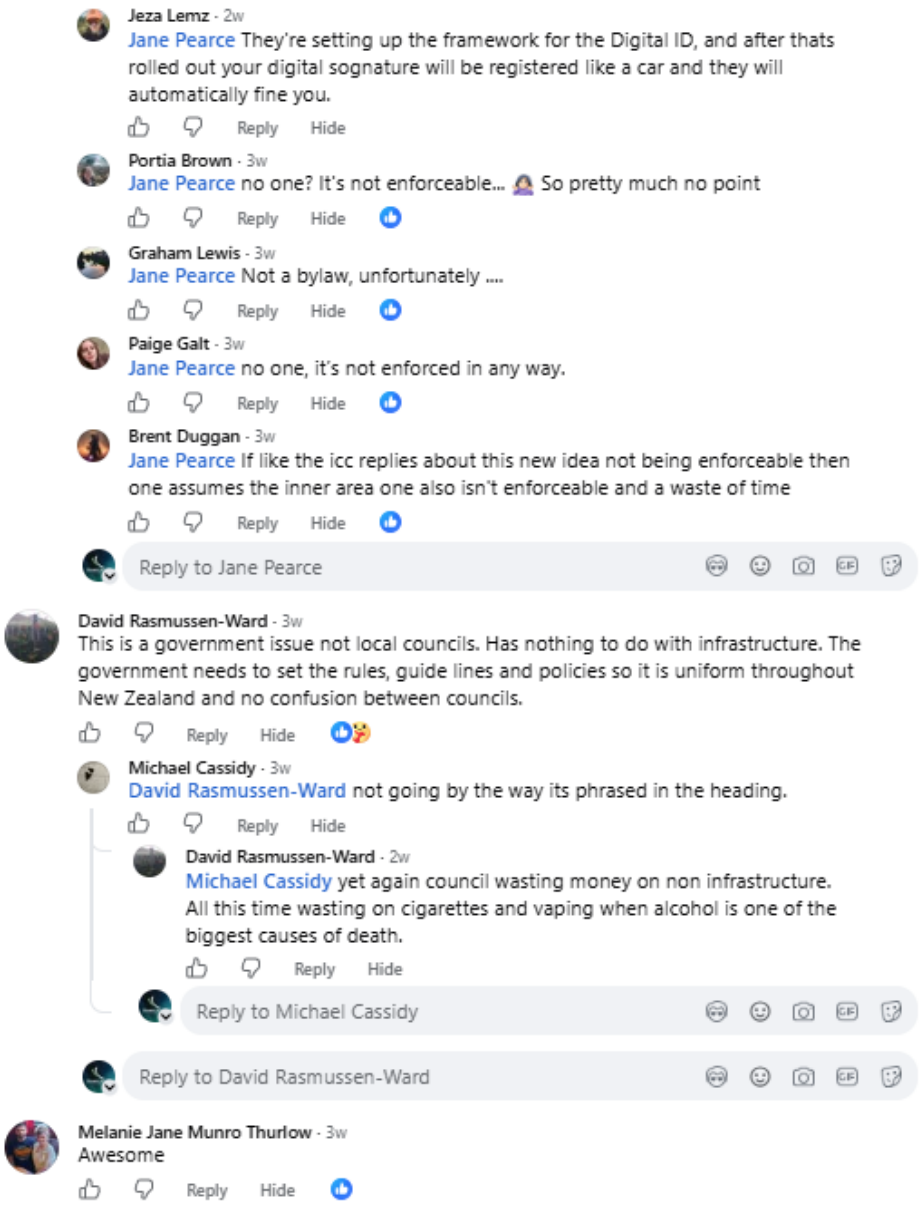
Julie Thompson · 3w
Beautiful photos of all the photos and yes i agree that there should be no smoking or vaping in the areas that you make it would be good if they stoped selling the stuff
Reply Hide

Gordon Haugh · 3w
Next we will have to stop for buses pulling out of Bus stops hahahah , oh hell thats rite that law is coming in ,in october , wonder if the buses will indicate
Reply Hide

Evan Steady · 3w
Council does not make legal law, that's up to the people. Is there public out cry?
Reply Hide

Brent Duggan · 3w
Since its not enforceable these zones aren't actually going to be smoke/vape free and its just a waste of ratepayer money .
Reply Hide

Jane Pearce · 3w
I thought the inner area is designated smoke free,but I see people smoking in these areas all the time, so who actually polices it?
Reply Hide


Jeza Lemz · 2w
Jane Pearce They're setting up the framework for the Digital ID, and after thats rolled out your digital sognature will be registered like a car and they will automatically fine you.
Reply Hide
Portia Brown · 3w
Jane Pearce no one? It's not enforceable... So pretty much no point
Reply Hide
Graham Lewis · 3w
Jane Pearce Not a bylaw, unfortunately ....
Reply Hide
Paige Galt · 3w
Jane Pearce no one, it's not enforced in any way.
Reply Hide
Brent Duggan · 3w
Jane Pearce If like the icc replies about this new idea not being enforceable then one assumes the inner area one also isn't enforceable and a waste of time
Reply Hide
Reply to Jane Pearce
David Rasmussen-Ward · 3w
This is a government issue not local councils. Has nothing to do with infrastructure. The government needs to set the rules, guide lines and policies so it is uniform throughout New Zealand and no confusion between councils.
Reply Hide
Michael Cassidy · 3w
David Rasmussen-Ward not going by the way its phrased in the heading.
Reply Hide
David Rasmussen-Ward · 2w
Michael Cassidy yet again council wasting money on non infrastructure. All this time wasting on cigarettes and vaping when alcohol is one of the biggest causes of death.
Reply Hide
Reply to Michael Cassidy
Reply to David Rasmussen-Ward
Melanie Jane Munro Thurlow · 3w
Awesome
Reply Hide

Smokefree Vapefree Policy 2026 – Social Media Report

Nicole Gibbs-Reid · 3w
Instead of saying don't do this here, how about, please go over there and do that? Give the smokers and vapers an out of the way space to head to and the non-vapers and smokers can avoid it.
Reply Hide

Michael Cassidy · 3w
Nicole Gibbs-Reid that would be too easy for ICC. They like to complicate [redacted] and make it difficult for their rate payers.
Reply Hide

Turuhira Kataraina Kingi · 3w
Nicole Gibbs-Reid some of our airports have designated smoking areas as well great idea
Reply Hide

Reply to Nicole Gibbs-Reid

Graeme Mcallum · 3w
If public places being smoke free then bring back smoking vaping pubs ppl don't like it go smoke free section I mean you don't normally stop on walk have water smoke but norm bourbon vape or smoke
Reply Hide Edited

Jocelyn MacDonald · 3w
Absolute waste of rate payers money and councils time.
Reply Hide

Zoe Smith · 3w
Dictatorship much....what next, umm no hot coffees on the street, you might burn someone 😜 😉 🤣
Reply Hide

Zen Cameron · 3w
Zoe Smith hot coffee is completely different to disgusting smoke fumes that can literally cause children cancer by second hand smoke but ok!
Reply Hide

Michael Cassidy · 3w
Zoe Smith [redacted] m8. Don't go giving them ideas. Lol
Reply Hide

Reply to Zoe Smith

Lee Stoneman Greig · 3w
DO IT - shouldn't need to be policed, people should be more polite about it and stop doing it in any public spaces
Reply Hide

Anne Gough · 2w
Lee Stoneman Greig Totally agree, it's stinks and effects people with lung issues.
Reply Hide

Jane McCone · 3w
Lee Stoneman Greig do you care about me at all??
Reply Hide

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Lee Stoneman Greig · 3w
Jane McCone when are we ever going to a park? Let's just be honest
Reply Hide

Reply to Jane McCone

Reply to Lee Stoneman Greig

Kurt Cosgrove · 3w
Dreaming
Reply Hide

Kerry Movingonnz · 3w
This is ridiculous and just a waste of money. You say its for educational purposes only lol. The wind blows the smoke away so unless someone is blowing it in your face then its not effecting anyone. Everyone goes on about nicotine so is everyone against it going to give up eating as alot of foods have nicotine in them
Reply Hide

Siobhán Moore · 3w
Better things to do with our rate [redacted] clowns
Reply Hide

Elizabeth Kelly · 3w
Good
Reply Hide

John Smith · 3w
What is the cost to the Invercargill ratepayer?
Reply Hide

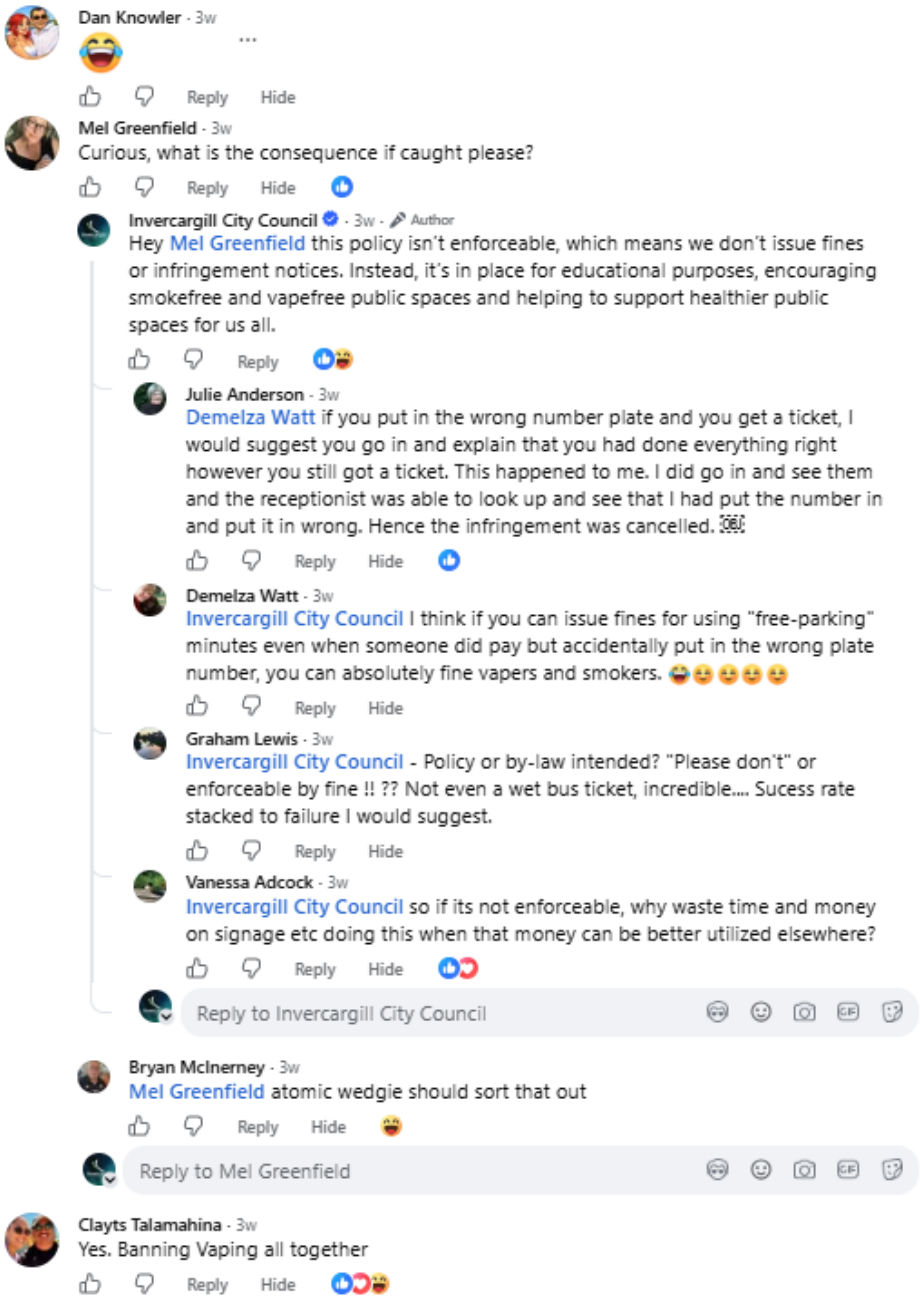
गृहयुद्ध विरुद्ध एकता · 3w



Reply Hide

Chris Tottenham · 3w
No ICC staff smoking or vaping at the back of the council buildings please. Use the roof.
Reply Hide

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Smokefree Vapefree Policy 2026 – Social Media Report



Dale Cournane · 3w
How much will that cost? I don't think it will be affordable when the city is in so much debt already. I'm not against it but there are probably more pressing issues that the money could be used for
Reply Hide

Riyadh Perkins · 3w
😂😂😂
Reply Hide

Annette Gunther · 3w
Yes Elles Road Dog Park please
Reply Hide
View 1 reply

Dave Spencer · 3w
Good luck monitoring that.
Reply Hide

Gee Paraone · 3w
Be ready to get told to "[redacted]off" multiple times a day by the ones smoking & vaping 🤣 need that nicotine hit 😉
Reply Hide

Darlene Mackenzie · 3w
Whats next ! They can't smoke or vape inside.
Reply Hide

Brenda Maley-Vear · 3w
Great idea.
Reply Hide

Michael Cassidy · 3w
[redacted] Are we turning in to communist China.
Reply Hide

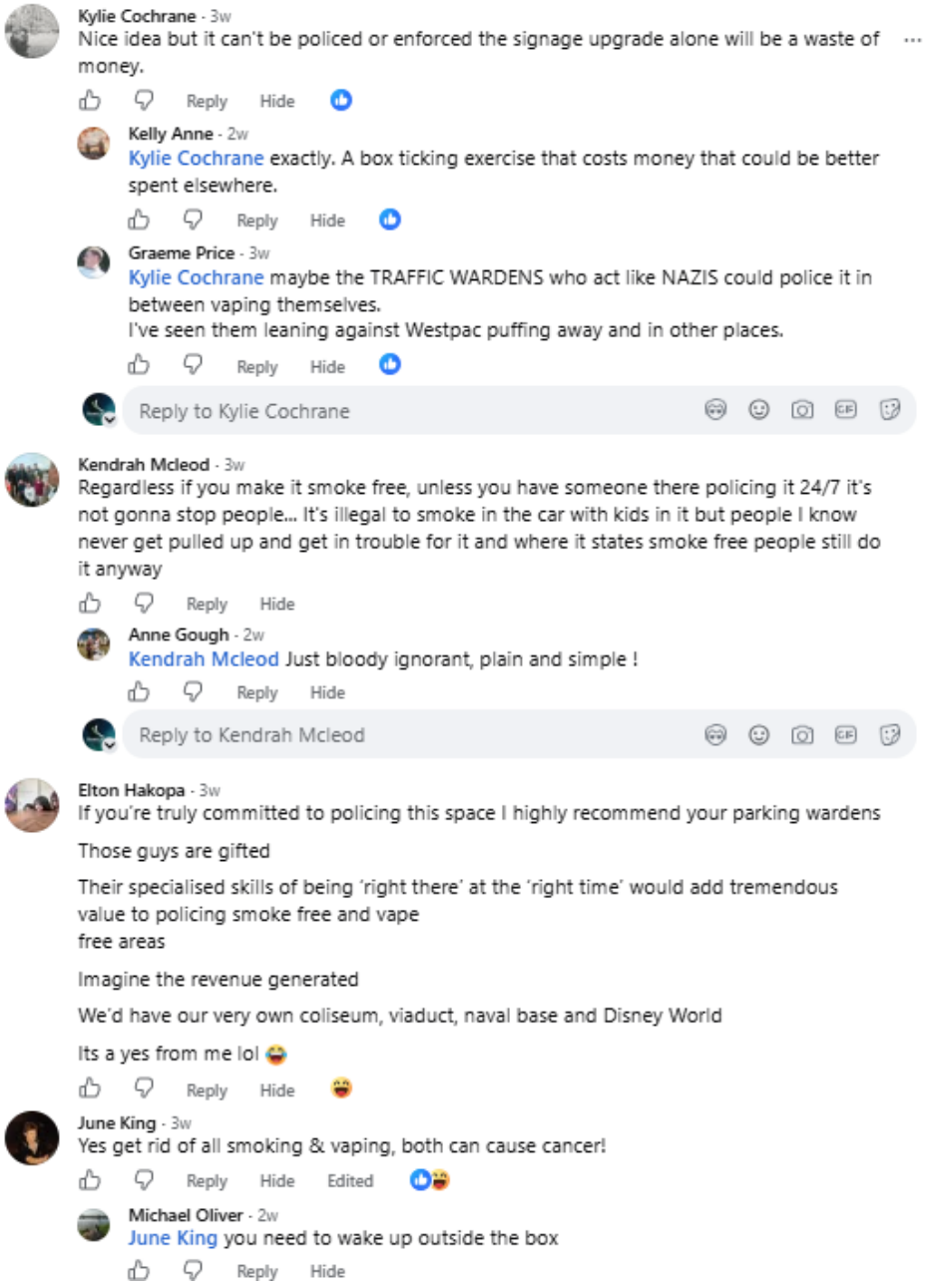
Clint Matthews · 3w
April fools has came late this year. Good luck policing this lol
Reply Hide

Roseanne Zyskowski · 3w
Awesome news of that i am so tired of smalling it's ruined my breathing when I stand there when I catch bus thanks for everything
Reply Hide

Shane Mackay · 3w
Really loved to see you's police that 😜
Reply Hide

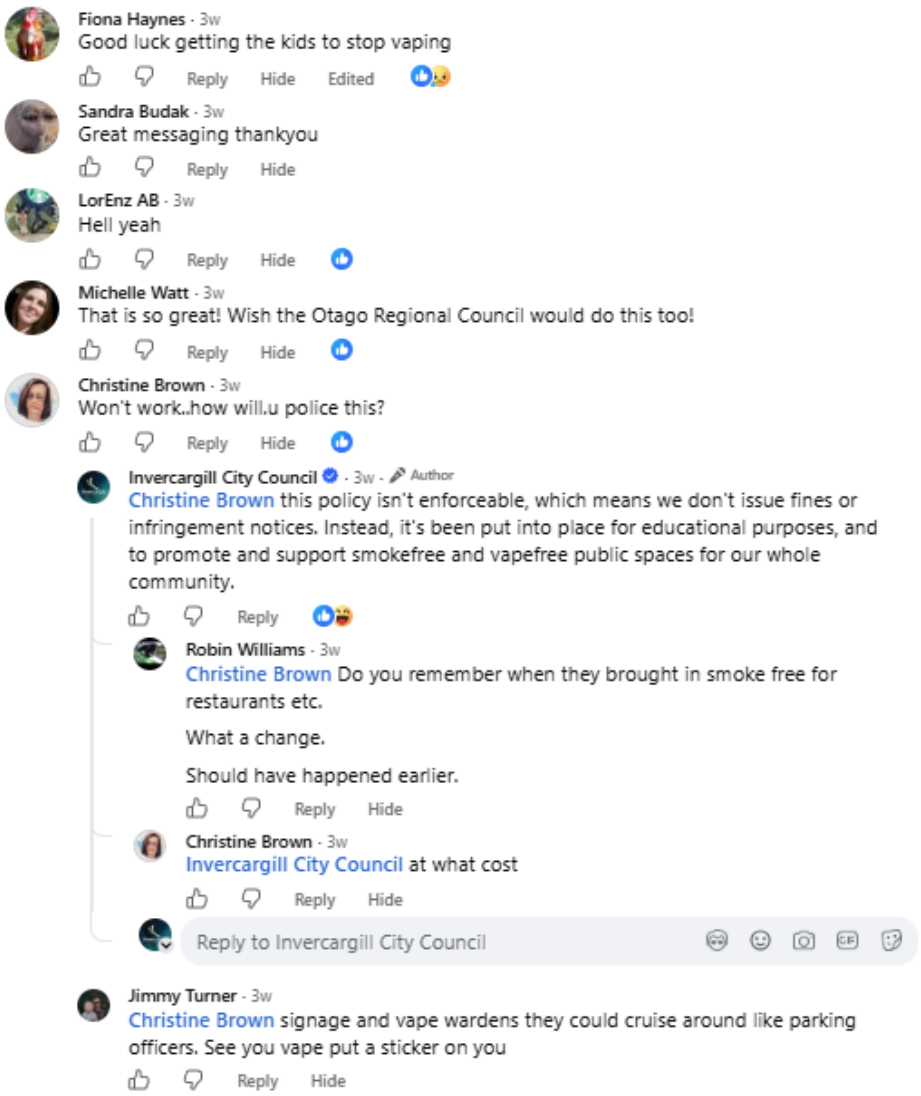
Courtney MacDonald · 3w · Top fan
Unless your going to police it and enforce it, it wont stop anything. Just another waste of ratepayers money on pointless signage 🤦.
Reply Hide

Smokefree Vapefree Policy 2026 – Social Media Report



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Version: 1, Version Date: 12/10/2026


Roseand Tony Snell · 3w
June King so does alcohol June. Probably more so but you don't hear anything about that!
Reply Hide
Demelza Watt · 3w
June King I'm so glad I can now pinpoint the cause of my cancer. Phew. Not knowing has been bugging me for nearly 2 years.
Reply Hide
Craig Chirnside · 3w
June King are you living on a different planet, where i live cancer is caused by a lot of different situations,events
Reply Hide
Naseneru Folesi · 3w
June King get rid of the sun too then
Reply Hide
Michael Cassidy · 3w
Naseneru Folesi yip. You beat me too it. How is that ozone lawer over New Zealand these days. Must be just about time to bring that one back. Oh wait. We had a lot of rain. Better wait til next year bro. Lmfao
Reply Hide
Reply to Naseneru Folesi
Reply to June King
Rowan Greig · 3w
How will this restriction be.policed? Will it be policed?
Reply Hide
Invercargill City Council · 3w · Author
Hey Rowan, this policy isn't enforceable, which means we don't issue fines or infringement notices. Instead, it's been put into place for educational purposes, and to promote and support smokefree and vapefree public spaces for our whole community.
Reply
Brent Duggan · 3w
Neal Eade Time and ratepayers money
Reply Hide
Neal Eade · 3w
Invercargill City Council What a waste of time doing it then.
Reply Hide
Rowan Greig · 3w
Invercargill City Council So it may not change anything directly?
Reply Hide



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Version: 1, Version Date: 12/10/2026

Smokefree Vapefree Policy

UPDATED DRAFT FOLLOWING CONSULTATION – NOVEMBER 2026



Document Set ID: 9501906
Version: 5, Version Date: 15/10/2026

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.

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- 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 and vaping 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.

DRAFT

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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:	9501906
Policy Owner:	Manager – Consenting and Applications
Policy Training:	

DRAFT

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