

# Smokefree Policy Review:

## Summary of Submissions and Post-Consultation Analysis

### Background

During September 2023 we reviewed the Council's gambling and smoke-free policies and sought public feedback on proposed changes.

The current 2008 Smokefree Parks and Playgrounds policy adopts the concept of smokefree Council parks and playgrounds for the Kāpiti Coast District, to be implemented through education and promoting awareness through signage in key parks.

This smokefree policy proposes to replace the Smokefree Public Places Policy and would:

1. **Include vaping** alongside smoking.
2. **Broaden the policy** to cover outdoor areas beyond parks and playgrounds to include:
  - all council owned parks, reserves, and sportsgrounds
  - all council owned playgrounds, including skateparks.
  - within 10 metres of outdoor public areas around council buildings and facilities
  - train stations, bus stops and shelters
  - beaches, rivers, lakes
  - outdoor Dining on Public Land (from 2025)
  - events held on Council land or receiving Council funding (from 2025)

Public consultation was undertaken using the special consultative procedure, which ran from 30 August to 2 October 2023.

### High Level Summary

A total of 87 submissions were received during the public consultation. Of those submitters:

- the majority of respondents were in favour of including vaping alongside smoking in the smokefree policy.
- the majority of respondents did not support the broadening of the policy to cover outdoor areas beyond parks and playgrounds.
- The analysis of the specific feedback received through submissions is set out below.

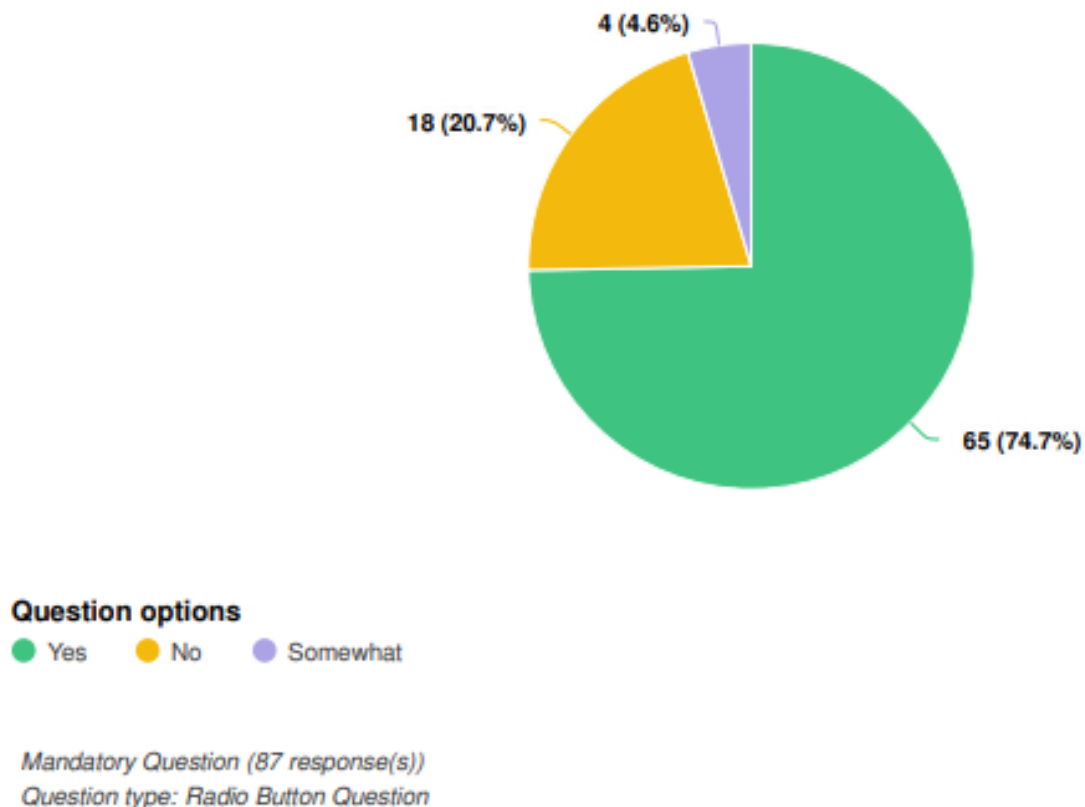
### How the feedback was analysed

Submitter feedback on each proposal or question in the *Statement of Proposal* was considered against the following evaluation criteria:

- The policy promotes the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of our community.
- The policy response is appropriate to the size and impact of problem being addressed.
- The policy is able to be practically implemented.
- The policy is likely to be effective at minimising harm from smoking in our community.

Recommendations on how to address the submission feedback noted after the feedback summary for each question.

## Question 1 – Do you support the proposed expansion of this policy to prohibit vaping as well as smoking in public places?



### Submission Results

Submitters	Yes	No	Somewhat
87	65 (74.7%)	18 (20.7%)	4 (4.6%)

Key themes for Yes respondents were:

- general support, no further comments
- vaping should be treated the same as traditional forms of smoking.
- vaping 'epidemic' in youth population
- vaping is highly addictive.

Key themes for No respondents were:

- general lack of support, no further comments
- vaping does not harm bystanders, unlike smoking
- vaping does not smell as badly as smoking

- it will negatively impact adults that use vapes to quit smoking.

Key themes for Somewhat respondents were:

- how enforceable this policy can be in reality.

Any iwi or key stakeholder view(s):

- **TMTA Regional Stop Smoking Service** support the expansion of this policy to prohibit vaping as well as smoking in public places.
- **Te Whatu Ora (Wellington Region)** support the expansion of this policy to prohibit vaping as well as smoking in public places.
- **Kāpiti Cancer Society** support the expansion of this policy to prohibit vaping as well as smoking in public places.
- **Ngāti Toa Rangatira** support the expansion of this policy to prohibit vaping as well as smoking in public places.

## Comment

Vaping is not included in Council's current smokefree parks and playgrounds policy, as the policy preceded the introduction of vaping. Vaping first began to appear on the NZ market in the mid-2000's and has become widely available over the last 5-7 years.

While vaping was initially introduced as a method of assisting existing smokers to quit smoking, research is increasingly finding that:

- there is harm to users from vaping products (refer section 31 in policy)
- the prevalence of vaping is increasing among people who have never smoked, especially young people.

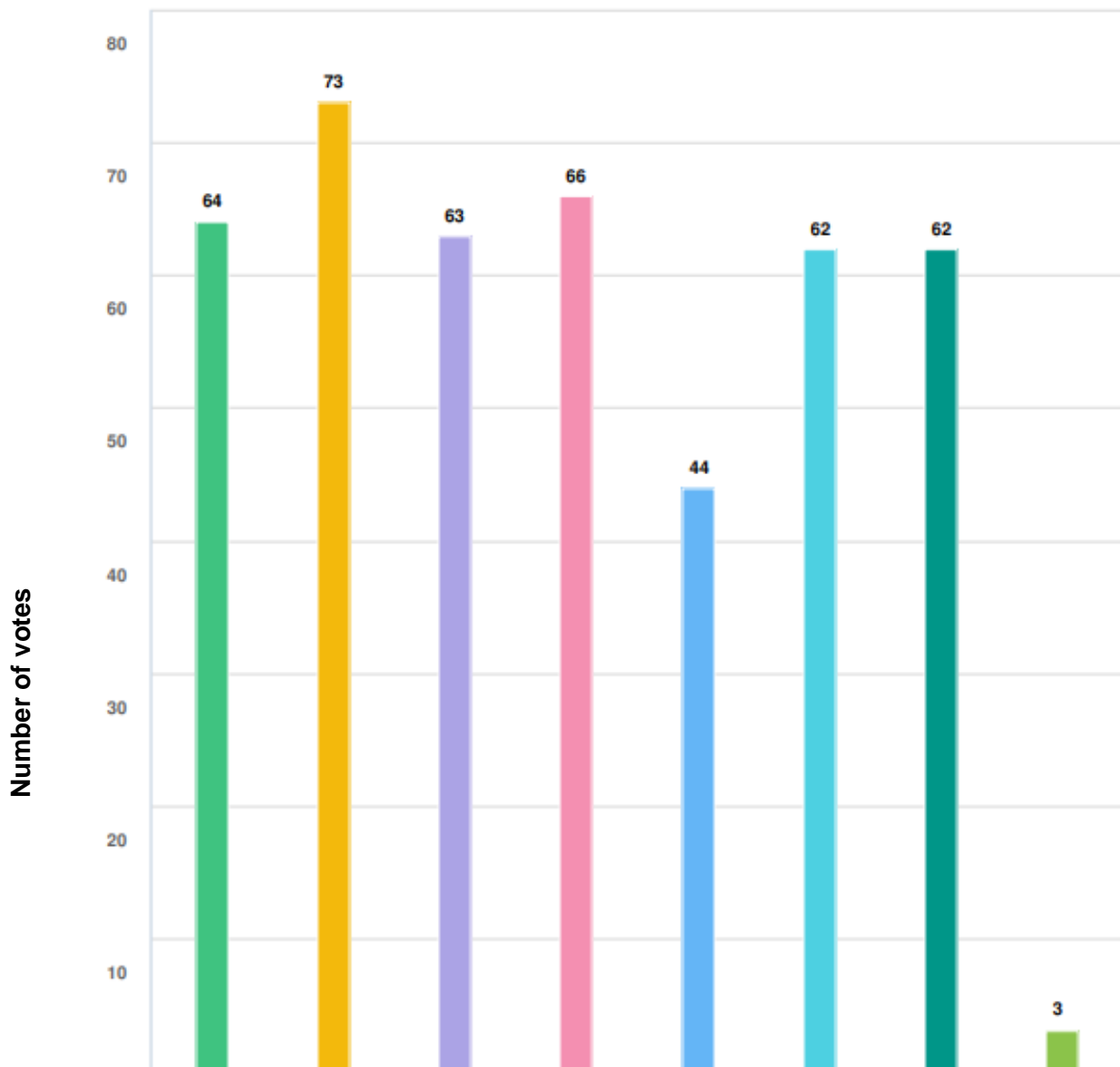
Whilst the majority of vapers, unsurprisingly, did not support the expansion to prohibit vaping, the majority of overall submissions do support the inclusion of vaping in the proposed smokefree policy.

Some submitters felt that including vaping would limit a citizen's freedom of choice and that the Council is overstepping its authority in suggesting its inclusion.

## Recommendation

**Progress** the inclusion of vaping in the smokefree policy to prevent vaping in public places.

**Question 2 - Do you agree with the inclusion of the following areas in the policy? (Tick as many as you agree with)**



**Question options**

- All council-controlled parks, reserves, and sportsgrounds
- All council-controlled playgrounds, including skateparks
- Within 10 metres of outdoor public areas around public council buildings and facilities
- Train stations, bus stops and shelters
- Beaches, rivers, lakes
- Outdoor Dining on (Council-controlled) Public Land (from 2025)
- Events held on Council land or receiving Council funding (from 2025)
- I don't agree with any

Mandatory Question (87 response(s))

Question type: Checkbox Question

## Submission Results

Total number of submitters = 87

Key themes for the inclusion of further areas were:

- smoking is antisocial and should only be allowed on private property.
- general support, no further comments.

Key themes against the inclusion of further areas were:

- questions around how the policy can be enforced in more areas.
- concerns about overreaching regulation
- general lack of support, no further comments.

Any iwi or key stakeholder view(s):

- **TMTA Regional Stop Smoking Service** support the expansion of this policy to all the additional areas.
- **Te Whatu Ora (Wellington Region)** support the expansion of this policy to all the additional areas.
- **Kāpiti Cancer Society** support the expansion of this policy to all the additional areas.
- **Ngāti Toa Rangatira** support making more beaches and places smokefree.

## Comment

Based off the number of votes, the majority of the 87 respondents support the expansion of the policy to include;

- all council owned parks, reserves, and sportsgrounds
- all council owned playgrounds, including skateparks.
- within 10 metres of outdoor public areas around council buildings and facilities
- train stations, bus stops and shelters
- beaches, rivers, lakes
- outdoor Dining on Public Land (from 2025)
- events held on Council land or receiving Council funding (from 2025).

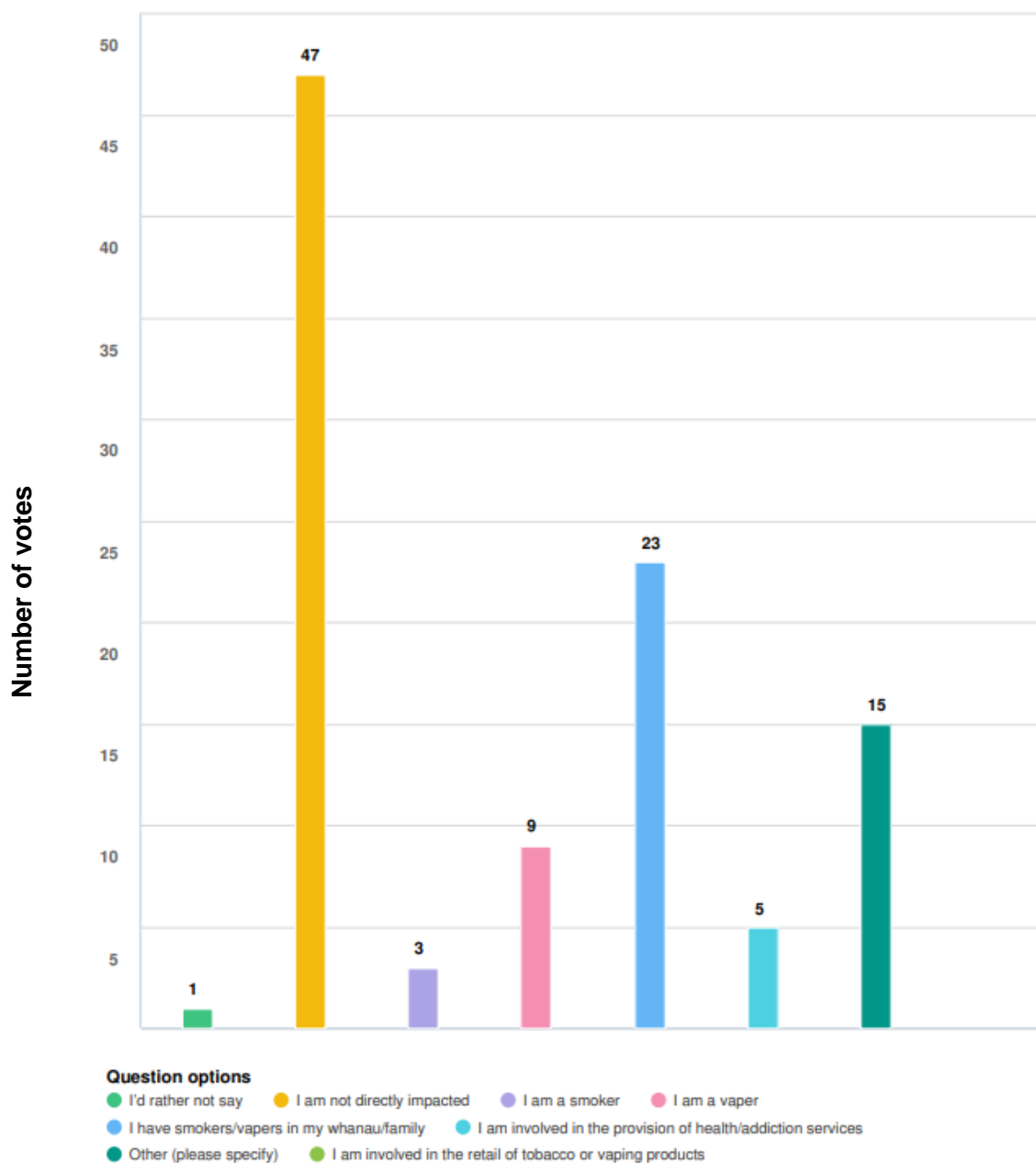
**Caveat:** It was identified in the consultation period that respondents could not tick the 'I don't agree with any' box. This error was quickly rectified but out of the 49 submitters at the time, those who did not support the expansion of places eligible under the policy could not indicate this preference prior to the survey being fixed. In follow up, two people asked for their earlier response to be changed; this is reflected in the results reported.

General themes revolved around the need for a common-sense approach and that individuals should be allowed to smoke in open spaces as long as they are distanced from children and other people.

## Recommendation

**Include all** of the additional areas in the new policy.

### Question 3 - Do you have a particular interest in this policy? (tick as many as apply)



The majority of submitters (54.0%) stated that they are not directly impacted by the smokefree policy, implying they are not smokers/vapers.

13.7% of submitters identified themselves as vapers/smokers. They generally

- opposed the inclusion of vapes in the smokefree policy, and,
- opposed the inclusion of additional areas applicable to the smokefree policy.

### Recommendation

N/A

## Annex

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### Iwi and key stakeholders

The following stakeholders provided written submissions:

1. **TMTA Regional Stop Smoking Service** is a collective of nine health, education, justice and social service providers, in the Wellington, Porirua and the Hutt Valley, Kapiti and Wairarapa regions. The providers in the collective work together collectively to realise the aspirations of Whānau Ora by:
  - a. assisting Māori to support and maintain their social and cultural wellbeing
  - b. identifying whānau needs and responding to them in the best way possible
  - c. strengthening the ability of whānau to support their own
  - d. recognising and utilising strengths within the whānau
  - e. facilitate, advocate and support with extended whānau and agencies on behalf of the whānau
2. **Te Whatu Ora (Wellington Region)** serves the public health of communities within the jurisdiction of Capital and Coast, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa Health Districts. The broad reason for their submission is to provide independent input to promote the reduction of adverse effects of the health of people and communities pursuant to the Health Act 1965 and the more recent Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022.
3. **Kāpiti Cancer Society** represents the experience of people with cancer, their whānau, and the wider community to decision-makers to improve cancer outcomes for people with cancer and their whānau across the Kāpiti Coast.
4. **Ngāti Toa Rangatira** are a Tainui iwi descended from the eponymous ancestor Toa Rangatira. Their aims are to enhance the mana, wellbeing and prosperity of Ngāti Toa Rangatira iwi, hapu and whānau. They do this by empowering the whānau, reclaiming iwi self-determination, revitalising their environment; through leadership, innovation, connectedness and exercising our rangatiratanga.