

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to designate the Crown Street Mall and Wollongong Arts Precinct as smoke-free zones.

POLICY INTENT

The Policy intent is to:

- Provide community leadership in taking measures to protect the health and social wellbeing of the community
- Raise community awareness of the issues associated with smoking including e-cigarette use (vaping)
- Improve the health of community members
- Improve public amenity and maintenance of Council property
- Minimise cigarette-butt pollution on the environment

WOLLONGONG 2032 OBJECTIVES

The Policy contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Community Strategic Plan Goal 5 “We have a healthy community in a liveable city”.

It specifically contributes to the delivery of Objective 5.12 “Plan and deliver an accessible, safe, clean and inviting public domain.”

POLICY

There is substantial evidence linking exposure to second-hand smoke with a range of serious and life threatening health impacts including heart disease, cancer, asthma and other respiratory problems. Children exposed to second-hand smoke are at an increased risk of asthma, acute respiratory infections and other health issues.

This Policy recognises that Council plays an important role in advocating public health outcomes and has a commitment to improving the natural environment and amenity of the local area by reducing the negative effects of smoking in public areas. This includes the use, consumption, holding or otherwise having control over a tobacco product, non-tobacco smoking product or e-cigarette (also known as ‘vape’) that is generating smoke or an aerosol or vapour.

The Crown Street Mall and the Wollongong Arts Precinct are key community precincts within the Wollongong Central Business District (CBD) which incorporate public areas for both visitors and community members from across all backgrounds and age groups to utilise and enjoy.

The establishment of these two public domain areas as smoke-free areas promotes public health outcomes for all users of these spaces.

Crown Street Mall

Crown Street Mall for the purposes of this Policy refers to the Council road situated on Crown Street between Keira and Kembla Streets, Church Street between Globe Lane and Court Lane and Globe Lane and Globe Way (see Figure 1).



Figure 1 – Crown Street Mall Boundary Area

Wollongong Arts Precinct

For the purposes of this Policy, the Wollongong Arts Precinct includes the following areas:

- The Town Hall, including the entrance and paved forecourt area bordered by Crown and Kembla Streets
- The Wollongong Art Gallery including the entrance bordered by Burelli and Kembla Streets
- Illawarra Performing Arts Centre bordered by Burelli Street and Town Hall Place
- The open space including the grassed area and seating between Burelli Street and the rear of the Wollongong Art Gallery and Illawarra Performing Arts Centre
- The laneway between Town Hall and the Wollongong Art Gallery
- Town Hall Place
- Ethel Hayton Walk
- The area in front of the Wollongong City Council Administration Building as access points, as well as the public transport stop and waiting area.

The map at Figure 2 below details the boundaries of the Wollongong Arts Precinct for the purposes of this Policy.



Figure 2 – Wollongong Arts Precinct Boundary Area

The roads managed by Council in the Crown Street Mall and the open space managed by Council in the Wollongong Arts Precinct will be signposted wherever practicable, to advise of the smoke-free zone. Signs will be installed in prominent places and will include the international no smoking symbol.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

This Policy complies with and supports implementation and compliance with the following policies and instruments:

NSW Local Government Act 1993

Under the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* Council has the power to erect suitably worded and strategically placed notices in 'public places' (such places including, but not limited to, public reserves, Crown reserves, public bathing reserves, public baths, public swimming pools, public parks and public roads) within the local government area prohibiting smoking.

NSW Smoke-free Environment Act 2000

The *Smoke-Free Environment Act 2000* bans smoking in the following outdoor public places:

- within 10 metres of children's play equipment in outdoor public places
- public swimming pools
- spectator areas at sports grounds or other recreational areas used for organised sporting events
- public transport stops and platforms, including ferry wharves and taxi ranks
- within four (4) metres of a pedestrian access point to a public building
- from 6 July 2015, in commercial outdoor dining areas.

NSW Smoke-free Environment Regulation Act 2018 No 13

This Act amends the *Smoke-Free Environment Act 2000* and the *Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008* to make it clear that smoking includes the production of smoke, aerosol or vapour by e-cigarettes or other heat-non-burn tobacco products and other products restricted under the *Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008*.

REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed every three years from the date of each adoption of the Policy, or as required.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The City Centre Management Team is responsible for the administration and review of this Policy.

Both the community support and community benefit that Council aims to achieve through this Policy encourages self-policing. Compliance with this Policy will therefore be supported in the first instance by community education and self-policing rather than enforcement. If self-policing does not achieve the objectives of this Policy, enforcement options Policy will be implemented subject to resources.

APPROVAL AND REVIEW

Responsible Division	Community, Culture + Engagement
Date adopted by Council	27 May 2024
Date/s of previous adoptions	13/08/2018 ¹
Date of next review	27 May 2027

¹ Previous title 'Crown Street Mall and Wollongong Arts Precinct Smoke-Free'