

## Maitland City Council Smoke Free Outdoor Area Policy

Council, at its 8 September meeting resolved that the Smoke Free Outdoor Area Policy be adopted for phased implementation with:

A. Stage 1: With effect from January 2010:

- i. Within 10 metres of all children's playgrounds under Council's care and control;
- ii. Within the boundaries of all sports grounds, swimming centres and sporting facilities (excluding car park areas and access roads);
- iii. Within 10 metres of Maitland Hospital entrances located on the Maitland Hospital boundary abutting High St;

B. Stage 2: With effect from July 2011

- i. Within 10 metres of the entrances to Council owned or managed buildings and covered areas of those buildings;
- ii. Alfresco dining areas on public land, where Council has conditioned such approvals to occupy the land;

This Policy was placed on public exhibition for public comment in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Local Government Act, 1993.

Smoking is the largest single preventable cause of death, killing over 15,000 Australians each year. A recent study showed that a person's exposure to second-hand smoke can be just as high outside as it is indoors (Heart Foundation, 2009).

The study which measured cigarette smoke levels in a variety of outdoor locations showed that a person sitting near a smoker in an outdoor area could be exposed to levels of cigarette smoke similar to the exposure of someone sitting in an indoor pub or club (Heart Foundation 2009).

Therefore, the second hand smoke in outdoor areas where people tend to congregate, including alfresco dining areas, sports grounds, playgrounds, pools and other outdoor venues can present a real health risk to the public and staff.