

24 August 2022

Health Select Committee
Via website

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Smoked Tobacco) Amendment Bill (Bill).

The Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) supports achieving a smokefree Aotearoa as part of its role in promoting community wellbeing. Council strongly support efforts to reduce smoking because of the harm that smoking causes in communities and look forward to continuing to play a part in promoting a smokefree future.

QLDC strongly supports the aim of the Bill to:

- reduce retail availability of smoked tobacco products by reducing retail outlet numbers and provision for specialist licenced outlets only
- reduce the appeal and addictiveness of smoked tobacco products
- introduce a Smokefree Generation by prohibiting the sale of smoked tobacco products to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009.

Include the effects of vaping in the scope of the Smokefree Generation policy

QLDC recognises that the Bill's purpose is primarily to address the issues associated with smoked tobacco, and that vaping is often considered a better alternative to smoking tobacco. However, the harmful impacts that vaping is having on communities, particularly rangatahi, is a major concern for the communities in the district. Future generations deserve to be protected from the addictive harm of vaping, alongside the harm of smoked tobacco products.

Accordingly, QLDC strongly supports the inclusion of vaping as part of the Smokefree Generation policy and ensuring that rangatahi voice helps to shape these measures. QLDC also recommends the Bill should be amended to further restrict the sale of vaping products to protect young people from the harmful effects of vaping.

Introduce legislation to address smoking in outdoor spaces

To ensure a consistent approach nationally to smokefree outdoor spaces, QLDC also encourage the Health Select Committee to consider the following recommendations which are outside the scope of the Bill:

- develop and implement legislation to prohibit smoking outside cafes, restaurants, and bars
- expand smokefree legislation to include outdoor environments to support those who are trying to stop smoking, reduce the visibility of smoking to future generations and support the Government's goal of a Smokefree Aotearoa by 2025.

Please note that this submission reflects the position of officers and has not been ratified by full Council.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Boulton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Jim Boulton

Mayor