

## Smoke-free Areas in the Launceston CBD Background

---

Currently there are four main areas designated as smoke-free areas in the Launceston CBD. These areas are the Civic Square, the Bus Shelters in St John Street, the Quadrant Mall and the Brisbane Street Mall. Footpath signage has been placed at the entrances to these areas to demarcate the smoke-free areas.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that smoke-free areas largely become self-regulating once it has been implemented following a robust public awareness and educational campaign. Currently, staff undertake regular monthly patrols of the smoke-free areas to ensure compliance and respond to any complaints received. The Department Health and Human Services (DHHS) also assist in the following-up of smoking relating complaints.

The current City of Launceston Annual Plan states the following with respect to the Smoke Free Area in Launceston:

***"Review the Smoke-free area in the Launceston CBD -  
Facilitate the expansion of the smoke-free area in the Launceston CBD and  
review regulatory processes***

### **MEASURES OF SUCCESS**

***- Smoke-free area in CBD reviewed and expansion implemented if determined  
necessary"***

The *Public Health Act 1997*, Section 67B states the following:

*"(1) A smoke-free area is any of the following:*

*(c) any area, including, but not limited to including, a public street, that is not within private premises and is designated by the occupier of the area as a smoke-free area; "*

This means that Council has the ability to designate any public area as a smoke-free area. Given that the Annual Plan outlines that Council would review the smoke-free area in Launceston CBD, the DHHS's Tobacco Control Officer was consulted with regards to the process and the possible viable options that may be able to be implemented.

The recommended process involves Council consideration of options, consulting the community and liaising with the DHHS on possible options. Once the proposed option has been decided upon, Council then is able to resolve to declare the nominated area as smoke-free and advise the DHHS of such and provides the accompanying maps and descriptions of smoke-free areas. Council is then required to advertise the new smoke-free areas; educate the public and demarcate the areas with signage and then enforce the ban.

It is important to note that it is not illegal to smoke and for that reason, we also need to

consider where we would send smokers should further areas be declared smoke-free. Smoking areas should be demarcated as such and butt bins and benches provided. This would discourage littering and provide a form of amenity for smokers. The location of smoking areas, may potentially impact negatively on business owners as their staff may have to walk a significant distance to have a smoke break, which could impact on time out of the office, thereby translating to lost productivity.

Attachment 1 depicts a map outlining the proposed expansion to the smoke-free zones and the potential areas that smokers may congregate. This expansion provides a seamless link to current smoke-free areas thereby minimising confusion as to where the smoke-free areas start and stop. The proposed expansion also takes into account Council owned lanes that provide relatively high walk through traffic. These lanes include Brisbane Court (unofficially already being treated as smoke-free), Centre Way Lane, Claytons Lane, part of Dicky Whites Lane and Ingles Lane. It is further proposed that butt bins be placed at the entrances to the smoke-free zones, as indicated on the map.

Staff will be consulting business owners currently in the smoke-free areas to determine the effect of the ban in the area and will also be consulting the wider community on the proposal to expand the Smoke-free Zones. Once consultation has been completed, the results will be made available to Aldermen in order that a determination as to the extent of the expansion of the ban can be made. Should the Council determine to expand the smoke-free area, it is recommended that the implementation would be rolled out in conjunction with the Launceston City Heart Project Stage 2 (streetscapes) design phase.

### **How does Launceston Compare around Australia?**

Below is a snapshot of what is happening around Australia in the area of smoke-free, which is not dissimilar to that which has been undertaken in Launceston:

1.	NSW	Jan 2015 - smoking banned in outdoor dining areas and at Correctional Facilities. May 2015 - 12 month smoking ban in Martin's Place, Sydney.
2.	VIC	Aug 2017 - smoking ban in outdoor dining areas to come into effect.
3.	SA	2012 - Ban on smoking in Rundle Mall in Adelaide. March 2016 - Smoking banned at Adelaide Remand Centre.
4.	WA	Dec 2013 - Smoking banned in Forrest Place, Hay Street Mall and Murray Street Mall in Perth CBD
5.	TAS	Hobart City Council - Smoking banned in Pedestrian Malls, Elizabeth Mall, Wellington Court, Hobart Bus Mall, Mathers Lane, Collins Court, Salamanca Square, outdoor dining areas, Council owned carparks and Council owned playgrounds.