

Glen Innes CBD is now a model smoke-free zone with Glen Innes Severn Council's installation of recognised "no smoking" signage clearing up any confusion on where "lighting up" is now not permitted.

The installation of signage is in accordance with Council's Smoke-Free Outdoor Environment Policy and with the *Smoke-Free Environment Act 2000 (NSW)*.

The entire CBD precinct has been identified as smoke-free under Council's Smoke Free Environment Policy, as shown in the map below.

It includes:

- Grey Street from Lang Street to Ferguson Street;
- Meade Street, Bourke Street and Wentworth Street from Church Street to East Avenue.



Smoking is NOT banned in Grovers Lane, Town Hall car park, McDonalds car park, Life Choices car park or Parker Place.

Council has no jurisdiction in privately owned areas such as Woolworths, Coles and Services Club car parks. Smokers in these areas should be reported to the owners – Woolworths, Coles or the Services Club.

Council has identified these smoke-free zones, which complement and enhance the amenity of the CBD, as a positive step that reduces street litter and helps residents to enjoy a healthier community.

How will this be enforced?

Council is anticipating that compliance with the Policy will largely occur by community education, voluntary compliance by smokers, and encouragement by community self policing, due to the strong community support for the move.

Signage throughout the precinct will help community members to identify areas where smoking is no longer acceptable.

Council rangers are authorised to issue fines to individuals caught smoking in the areas covered by the Policy, and this will be resorted to in cases of repeated wilful non compliance.

State Government Smoking Bans

In addition to the CBD areas where Council's Policy has been implemented, smoking is banned in the following areas under the *Smoke-Free Environment Act 2000 (NSW)*:

- Within 10 metres of children's play equipment in outdoor public places;
- In spectator areas of sports grounds;
- Public swimming pool complexes;
- Public transport stops and stations;
- Taxi ranks;
- Areas within four (4) metres of any building entrance (except residences);
- In Commercial outdoor dining areas and within 4 metres of these areas.

How is this enforced?

NSW Health is responsible for administration and enforcement of the Smoke Free Environment Act in these areas.

NSW Health inspectors are authorised to enforce the ban in the areas listed above.

Glen Innes Council Rangers are NOT authorised to enforce smoking bans under the Act (only areas covered by Council's Policy).

If a community member wants to report smoking in an area covered by the Act (and NOT covered by Council's Policy), NSW Health can be advised online at –

https://nswhealth.formstack.com/forms/online_form_2_copy

Council has a commitment to improving the natural environment and supporting good public health outcomes. There is evidence of strong community support for this smoke-free initiative, as well as evidence that where councils have introduced such policies elsewhere in the State, community expectations about decreasing smoking have concurrently been raised.

As an entire CBD precinct has been identified as smoke-free, Council is a State leader in this regard. The smoke-free precinct complements the CBD Revitalisation Program, creating a healthy, visual amenity for everyone to enjoy. Council also anticipates reduced clean-up costs and negligible asset costs, as replacement signs may be sourced from NSW Health.

Further information can be found online at –

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/tobacco/Pages/strategy-and-policy-nsw-health.aspx>

or call the Tobacco Information Line on **1800 357 412**.

More information on areas covered by the new Smoke Free Environment Policy may be obtained from Council's Department of Development, Planning & Regulatory Services on 6730 2350.