

15 March 2023

Ministry of Health

Via email: smokefree2025@health.govt.nz

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Proposals for the Smoked Tobacco Regulatory Regime.

The Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) supports achieving a smokefree Aotearoa as part of its role in promoting community wellbeing. Council strongly supports 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.

Community engagement would be required to inform a response to the proposed regulations.

QLDC recognises that the regulations proposed are designed to implement the recent changes to the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Smokefree Tobacco) Amendment Act. For QLDC to form a position, a period of community engagement would be required to respond to each of the proposed regulations.

The proposed changes to regulations are significant.

The impact of the proposed changes to the sale of tobacco and vapes in New Zealand would be significant to small business owners and supermarkets that sell these products. QLDC would recommend that the scale and scope of the changes in regulations be acknowledged and an approach to mitigate the impact of the changes be outlined.

The role of Local Government in the implementation of the proposed regulations.

The proposed regulations do not outline the role that local government may play in the administration and enforcement of them. Local government plays a role in the licensing and enforcement of alcohol laws and regulations, but the proposed smoked tobacco regulations do not include this detail. QLDC recommends that the Ministry of Health outline the way local government would be involved in the licensing and enforcement of smoked tobacco and vape retailers.

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,



Ken Bailey
GM Community Services, QLDC