

Department of Health and Human Services

GPO Box 125, HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Ph: 1300 135 513
Web: www.dhhs.tas.gov.au



Contact: Veronica Martin-Gall
Phone: (03) 6166 6054
Facsimile: (03) 6222 7692
E-mail: veronica.martin-gall@dhhs.tas.gov.au
File:

Ms Debbie Fortuin
Manager of Environmental Health Services

Email: debbie.fortuin@launceston.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Fortuin

Subject: Proposed City Centre Smoking and Non Smoking Areas

Thank you for your recent correspondence about Launceston's proposed smoke-free areas and for the opportunity to comment.

I want to compliment Council on their approach to protecting people in the city from the harms of second hand smoke. Your consultation and evaluation processes are good practice. The *Evaluation of Businesses in the Launceston CBD concerning the Smoke Free Laws Comparison Report* shows increasingly favourable attitudes towards smoke-free areas in Launceston. Some respondents suggested how increased and particularly targeted enforcement by council staff may reduce patches of non-compliance.

The Department would be pleased to support you in planning any communications about the changes.

The plan has a proposal to position butt bins at the end of smoke-free areas. This provides a place for smokers to discard their cigarettes just before entering a smoke-free area, but it may also encourage smokers to light up as soon they leave the smoke-free area, and tend to establish *de facto* smoking sites. It's a difficult balance, but you might consider if factors (such as the local geography, outside ventilation, nearby shops, and patterns of pedestrian movement in and out of the smoke-free area) suggest better but nearby places to locate butt bins to prevent concentrating smokers at the very edge of the smoke-free area.

Thank you for involving the Department at this stage of your planning and if you have further enquiries please contact Veronica Martin-Gall, Senior Advisor Tobacco on telephone (03) 6166 6054 in the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Veitch".

Dr Mark Veitch
A/Director Public Health

2 August 2016