

TE WAI ORA



Nelson Marlborough
District Health Board

Feedback on Tasman District Council Annual Plan 2016/17

18 April 2015

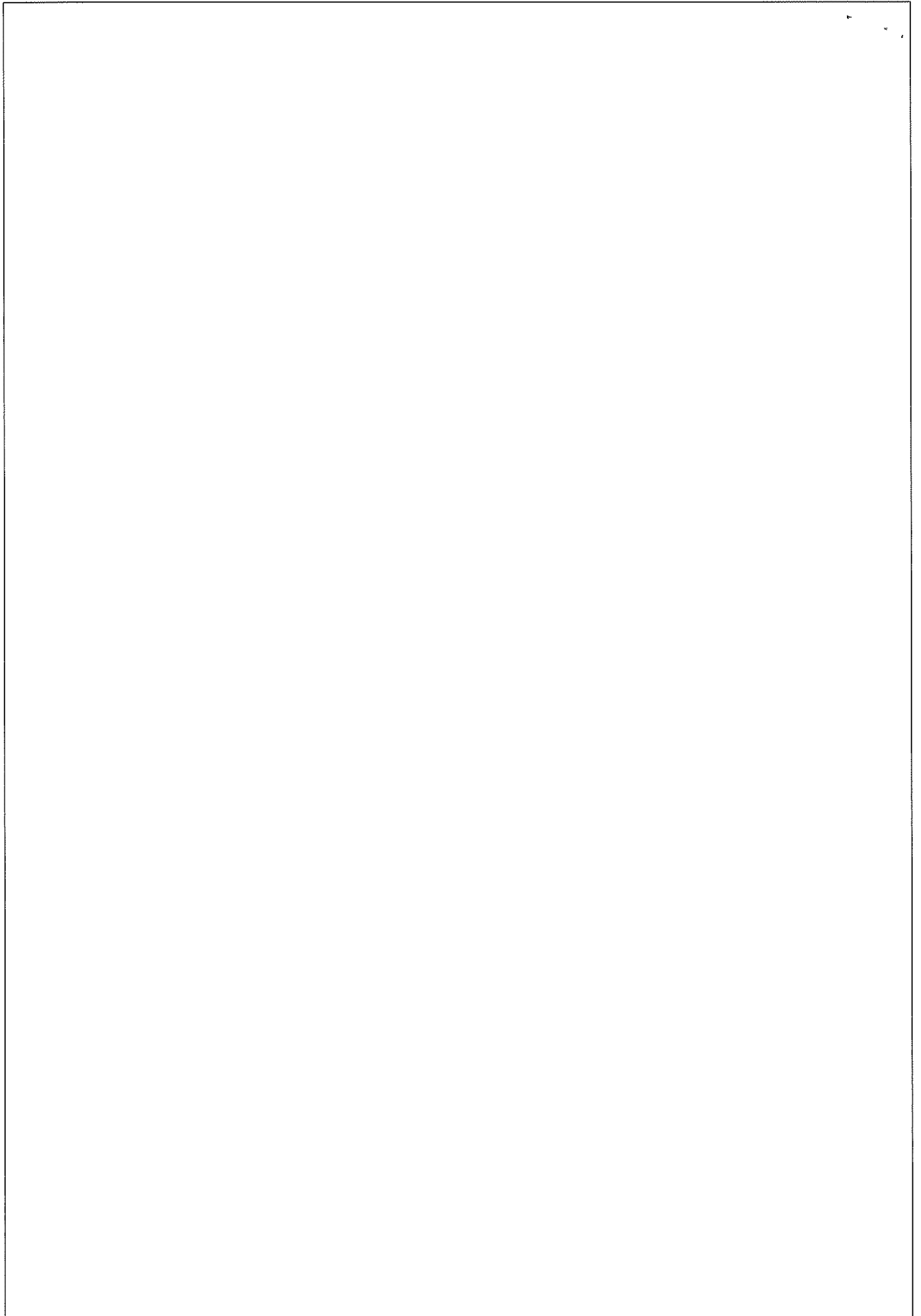
For more information please contact:

Angela Lenz

NMDHB Public Health Service

Email: angela.lenz@nmdhb.govt.nz

Phone: (03) 543 7805



Introduction

1. Nelson Marlborough District Health Board (NMDHB) is a key organisation involved in the health and wellbeing of the people within Te Tau Ihu. NMDHB's Public Health Service (NMDHB-PHS) appreciates the opportunity to comment from a public health perspective on the Tasman District Council (TDC) Annual Plan 2016/17.
2. The NMDHB-PHS provides this feedback in recognition of its responsibilities to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities under the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 and the Health Act 1956.
3. The NMDHB-PHS notes that the TDC does not intend to deviate from its Long Term Plan 2015-2025 in terms of the strategies and targets planned for the Annual Plan 2016/17, but still welcomes feedback on projects or activities to consider in the next rounds of planning.
4. In line with previous feedback to TDC on the Queen Street Reinstatement Project, the NMDHB-PHS would like to take this opportunity to recommend that TDC considers making the streets and public spaces of Tasman's central business districts (CBDs) smokefree environments.
5. The NMDHB-PHS acknowledges that TDC has already undertaken some good work in this area by introducing a smokefree policy into its sports grounds, reserves and parks. The NMDHB-PHS commends TDC for these initiatives in extending smokefree environments beyond what is currently required by legislation and notes that this provides a good base to build further work on.

Smokefree environments

6. Evidence indicates that smokefree environments result in enhanced amenity values, environmental benefits and improved community health and wellbeing. In summary, extending smokefree areas:
 - does not harm business^{1,2}
 - can reduce the impact of cigarette-related litter in outdoor areas, resulting in reduced cleaning costs, fire risk and environmental impacts³
 - is generally supported by the public⁴
 - reduces the risk of adverse health effects from second-hand smoke exposure, de-normalises smoking especially around children,⁴ and encourages smokers to quit.²
7. The NMDHB-PHS is aware that smokefree environment policies are implemented in the CBDs or service areas of Palmerston North, Napier, Hastings, and Horowhenua. Additionally, Wellington

¹ Loomis BR, Shafer PR, van Hasselt M. 2013. *The economic impact of smoke-free laws on restaurants and bars in 9 states*. Preventing Chronic Disease 10:120327

² World Health Organization. 2015. *Tobacco*. Fact sheet No 339. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe

³ Cancer Society of New Zealand and Health Sponsorship Council. 2008. *Smokefree councils implementation kit: A guide for local health promoters*. Wellington: Cancer Society of New Zealand and Health Sponsorship Council

⁴ Health Promotion Agency. 2013. *Acceptability of extended smokefree areas and smokefree cars*. Wellington: Health Promotion Agency

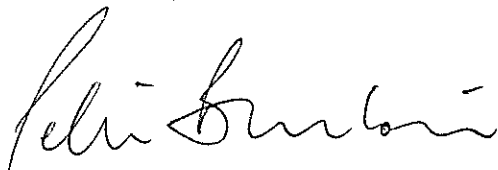
and Christchurch city councils have made a commitment in their long term plans to introduce such policy.

8. While councils tend to use self-policing signage as a means for implementing their smokefree policies and no fines apply, experience indicates that this approach is educative through promoting smokefree messages and is effective in achieving smokefree objectives.⁵ Signage can deter people from smoking, empower members of the public to ask people to comply, and can support it becoming an accepted behaviour not to smoke in the designated areas over time.⁵

Conclusion

9. The NMDHB-PHS thanks the TDC for the opportunity to provide feedback in relation to the Annual Plan 2016/17.
10. The NMDHB-PHS recommends TDC to consider making the streets and public spaces of Tasman's central business districts (CBDs) smokefree environments.
11. Evidence indicates that smokefree environments protect the health of non-smokers, are popular, do not harm business, encourage smokers to quit,² reduce litter impacts³, and de-normalises smoking, especially around children.⁴
12. The NMDHB-PHS sees it as very important for the TDC to continue to work in partnership with the NMDHB-PHS on smokefree environments and welcomes further discussion on this particular matter.

Yours sincerely



Peter Burton
Service Manager Public Health
peter.burton@nmhs.govt.nz

⁵ Marsh L, Robertson LA, Kimber H, Witt M. 2014. *Smokefree outdoor areas in New Zealand: How far have we come?* The New Zealand Medical Journal 127:1389