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www.wattlerange.sa.gov.au

## MEDIA RELEASE

### NEW SMOKING LAWS

Wattle Range Mayor Peter Gandolfi welcomed new smoking laws introduced by the State Government. The new laws will take effect from May 31 this year.

Under the new legislation:

- Smoking is banned within 10 metres of children's public playground equipment.
- Smoking is banned under covered public transport waiting areas, including bus, tram, train and taxi shelters and other areas used to board or alight from public transport that are covered by a roof.
- Local councils and other incorporated bodies can apply to have an outdoor area or event declared smoke-free.
- The age that a person can be fined for smoking-related offences has been reduced to 15 years.

The maximum fine for breaching the smoking laws is \$200. An expiation notice of \$75 can be issued.

Mr Gandolfi said he is confident that the vast majority of smokers, including himself, will find the new requirements very acceptable.

"I find that many smokers do not smoke indoors or where another person may be subject to passive smoke – these new laws reflect basic courtesy and common sense," he said. "It's also another good reason to give the smokes up."

SA Health advises that there is a very high level of support for banning smoking in or near children's playgrounds.

When South Australians were surveyed on this issue in 2010, 96 per cent supported smoking restrictions in children's playgrounds and 71 per cent were concerned about exposure to someone else's cigarette smoke.

The new laws reflect community demand for outdoor smoke-free areas. A high level of compliance with the new bans is expected, as occurred back in 2007 when smoking was banned in cars carrying children younger than 16 years, and pubs and clubs became smoke-free.

The changes will further protect the community from passive smoking, increase the comfort and amenity for non-smokers and reduce the exposure of young people to smoking.

For further information, see [www.tobaccolaws.sa.gov.au](http://www.tobaccolaws.sa.gov.au).

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