

# Smoke-free patrolled beaches

## Summary fact sheet

### What is the proposed change?

From 1 December 2012 smoking is banned at all patrolled beaches in Victoria.

Similar bans have been in place in Queensland since 2005, Western Australia since 2010 and in Tasmania from March 2012.

### Why ban smoking on patrolled beaches?

This ban will protect beach users from exposure to second-hand smoke, stop children seeing people smoke (which may influence their behaviour as adults) and reduce environmental damage from butt littering.

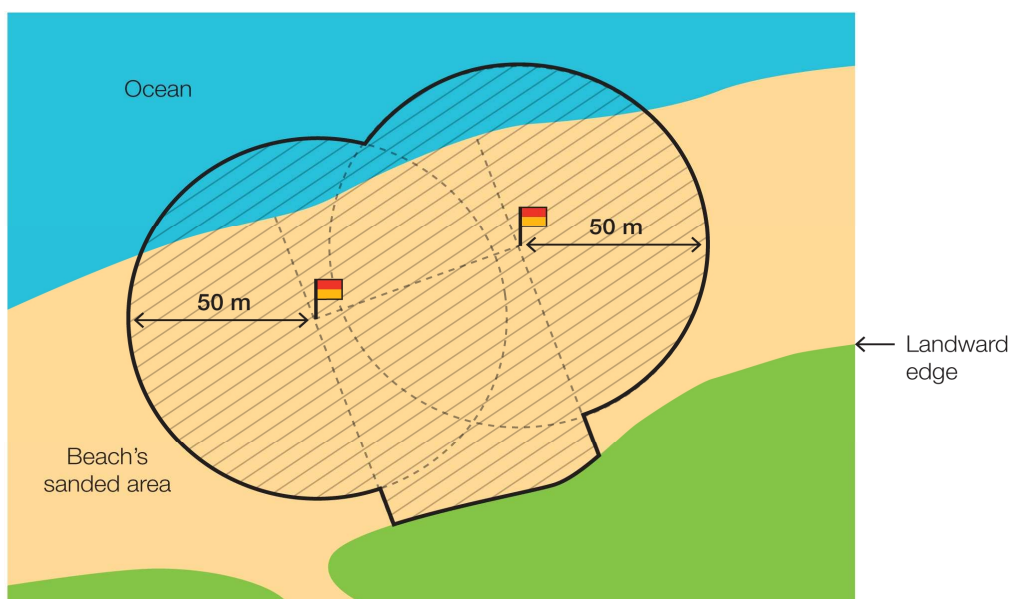
### How will people know about the ban?

To inform people of the ban, 'No Smoking' signs will be installed at patrolled beaches. A community awareness campaign will further emphasise that Victoria's patrolled beaches are now smoke-free.

### Where and when will the ban apply?

Smoking will be banned between the red-and-yellow flags and within a 50 metre radius of a red-and-yellow flag. This includes publicly accessible areas primarily covered by sand and water. The ban will apply during patrolled times, when one or more red-and-yellow lifesaving flags installed by a Life Saving Victoria club are in place.

The ban will not apply beyond the landward edge of the beach's sanded area.

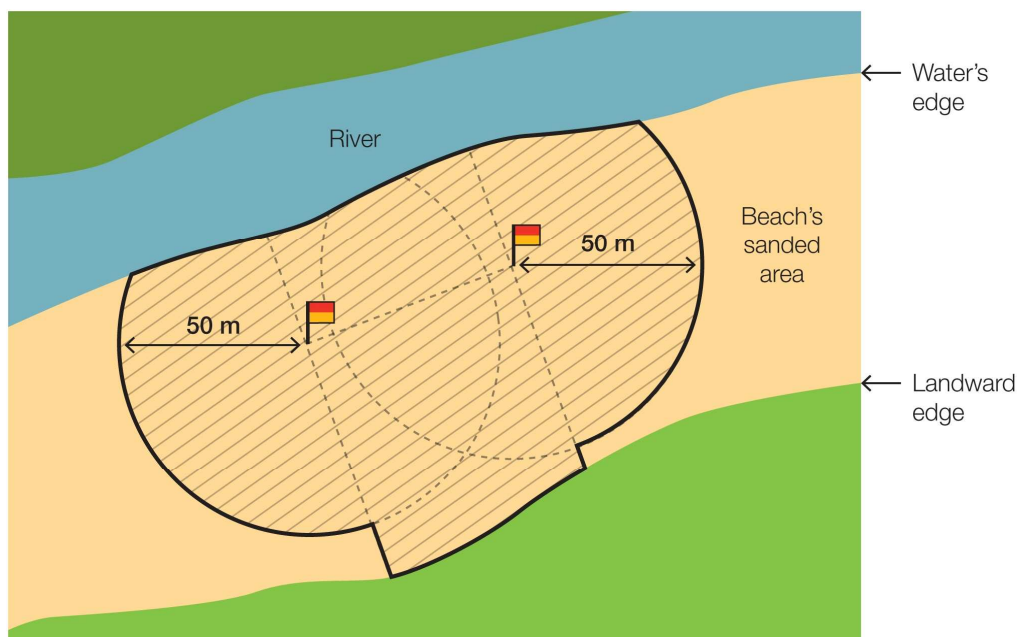


Shading indicates 'No smoking' area

**Figure 1: Ocean/bay beaches**

## Will the ban apply to riverside beaches?

The ban will apply to the patrolled river beach on the Murray River in Mildura. However, in the case of this beach in Mildura, the ban will not apply beyond the water's edge or beyond the landward edge of the beach



Shading indicates 'No smoking' area

**Figure 2: Riverside beach**

## How will compliance with the ban be achieved?

Community attitudes towards smoking have changed, especially about smoking around children. Making patrolled beaches smoke-free is expected to be achieved mainly through the observation of signs and the influence of friends and family members encouraging respect for the ban in the specified smoke-free areas.

Initially, inspectors authorised under the *Tobacco Act 1987* may provide information about and, if necessary, enforce the ban. Inspectors will not be available to respond to every complaint, but where circumstances allow, may attend patrolled beaches in response. Lifesavers will not be responsible for enforcing this ban.

The overall goal in responding to a complaint is to make sure smokers understand that smoking is banned between the red-and-yellow flags and within a 50 metre radius of a red-and-yellow flag.

## What penalties might apply?

An inspector can issue an infringement (fine) of 1 penalty unit for smoking on a patrolled beach, and 1 penalty unit if a person fails to stop smoking upon request. In 2012-13, a penalty unit is \$140.84.

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