

Consultation of Wood Heater Emissions Submission

What is your view of the wood heater industry in Australia?

Disappointment that the high quality low emission heaters that were available previously seem to be no longer easily obtainable in Australia – eg English, Scandinavian and Canadian high quality heaters designed for stringent emission standards.

Do you consider wood heater emissions to be a significant issue relative to other forms of air pollution?

Yes definitely in Launceston (along with herbicides as indicated below). Despite the efforts of the Launceston City Council spikes in smoke emissions continue at peak times, in certain conditions and in certain vicinities. Although the air quality has improved over the last ten years, council does not appear to be able to resolve situations with persistent offenders.

This situation fails to give confidence that Option 9 will result in improvements.

Another significant form of air pollution is from herbicides used by local authorities or their contractors in unfavourable conditions and with staff failing to use recommended protection. A cavalier attitude exists to the use of these chemicals and poisons also by residents and is a significant problem when others seek to produce home grown vegetables and fruit.

Do you agree that the current policy measures for the abatement of wood heater emissions are not successful in realising the policy objectives?

Yes, we agree that they are ineffective, as in the experience in Launceston which has policy consistent with the CAG Option 9 policy. Repeated contact with persistent offenders has **not** resulted in change, and over a period of ten years.

Option 9 should be implemented but with stronger incentives.

Are there other measures that are not listed in the document that should be considered?

A strongly held view is that wood heating is the most desirable form of heating as it is carbon neutral. The cultural attachment to wood heating is hard to change as indicated in the experience in Launceston. For this reason, stronger recognition of the preference for wood heating may be required along with incentives to bring about changed practices to the use of wood for heating.

See the brochure from www.smartburn.com.au (Wood Heating: The smart way for safety, efficiency and saving).

Have all health, environmental, economic and social impacts been identified?

There is over emphasis on short term health impacts and not enough on long term health impacts from low level long term exposure to wood smoke emissions as

continues to be the case in Launceston, despite the considerable efforts and improvements over the last ten years.

With smoky air in the suburbs, one has to drive to find a suitable site for walking – with the resulting car emissions adding to the problem. The high-level wood emissions impact on residents in full time paid work. Although there are lower emissions during the middle of the day, it is not the time that those in full time paid work are able to walk for exercise. The health impacts are therefore compounded.



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