

To: SCEW Secretariat

Subject: R Maguinness-Response to CRIS for reducing emissions from woodheaters

I write as a manufacturer of woodheaters sold through our dealers across Australia.

Woodheaters play a vital role in providing an effective heating choice for thousands of people particularly in rural Australia, where there is an abundance of available wood that can be used for home heating, rather than having to use the more expensive fossil fuels.

It is our opinion that our industry has been basically ignored by Government over recent years, with many initiatives offered for people to replace woodheaters with gas or electric heaters. It is important that Government understands the advantage that renewable fuel alternatives like woodheating can offer, and these should be included in the mix of any Government proposals to improve air quality like buy backs etc etc.

Our Company has spent enormous resources in improving the performance and efficiency of our range over recent years, as well as supporting future cleaner burning testing in the future to assist in improved air quality.

We support the push for a National Standard, embraced by Federal, State and local council jurisdictions, rather than the ridiculous situation we find ourselves in with some Councils adopting interim standards on an ad hoc basis, which will effectively exclude the sale of heaters in those areas. We strongly support the proposal submitted by the Australian Home Heating Association requesting that Government embraces the audit of units sold in Australia, ensuring compliance and certification to the Standard. We further suggest that the sale of second hand, and non compliant heaters be outlawed with prosecution and or fines being actionable against sellers.

Education of the correct use of woodheaters is vital, and this simple statement should not be underestimated when trying to improve air quality.

We urge that our industry be embraced by Government for the many positives that woodheating can bring to the table, and urge a positive, and detailed road map be undertaken to ensure we can play an effective role in this country going forward, albeit with cleaner burning units that we are supporting into the future.

Regards,

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