

To: SCEW Secretariat

Subject: CRIS for reducing emissions from wood heaters

I was enlightened by the report and some subsequent research I did on the subject and will be looking into changing my mode of winter heating as a result. I currently use a combination of slow combustion and reverse cycle air-conditioning and already have a 1.5KW PV system in place.

The only thing of note that I believe was omitted from the report was input from the various rural Fire services like the state RFS organisations - even though the report specifically mentioned bushfires as a source of PM emissions.

I would have been particularly interested in the some coverage of any increased risk of bushfires due to reduction of firewood harvesting and increasing drought cycles. I assume bushfires would burn a lot of green wood and produce even more PM emissions based on the noted causes of exceedences. I also wonder if this would also would flow on as increased requirements/costs for fire hazard reduction efforts and what such efforts would add to PM emissions. Are bushfires a lesser or greater problem than wood heaters ? I remember smelling smoke for weeks after the Canberra bush fires.

Perhaps another option would be for a GBE to buy the abandoned Ford factory and build and distribute/sell a solar powered digester to produce and store methane from wood - which could subsequently be burned in a gas heater ? Methane should burn even cleaner than propane.

Cheers