

Clean Air Summit

**From old to new approaches –
Wood heater social research and
community education**

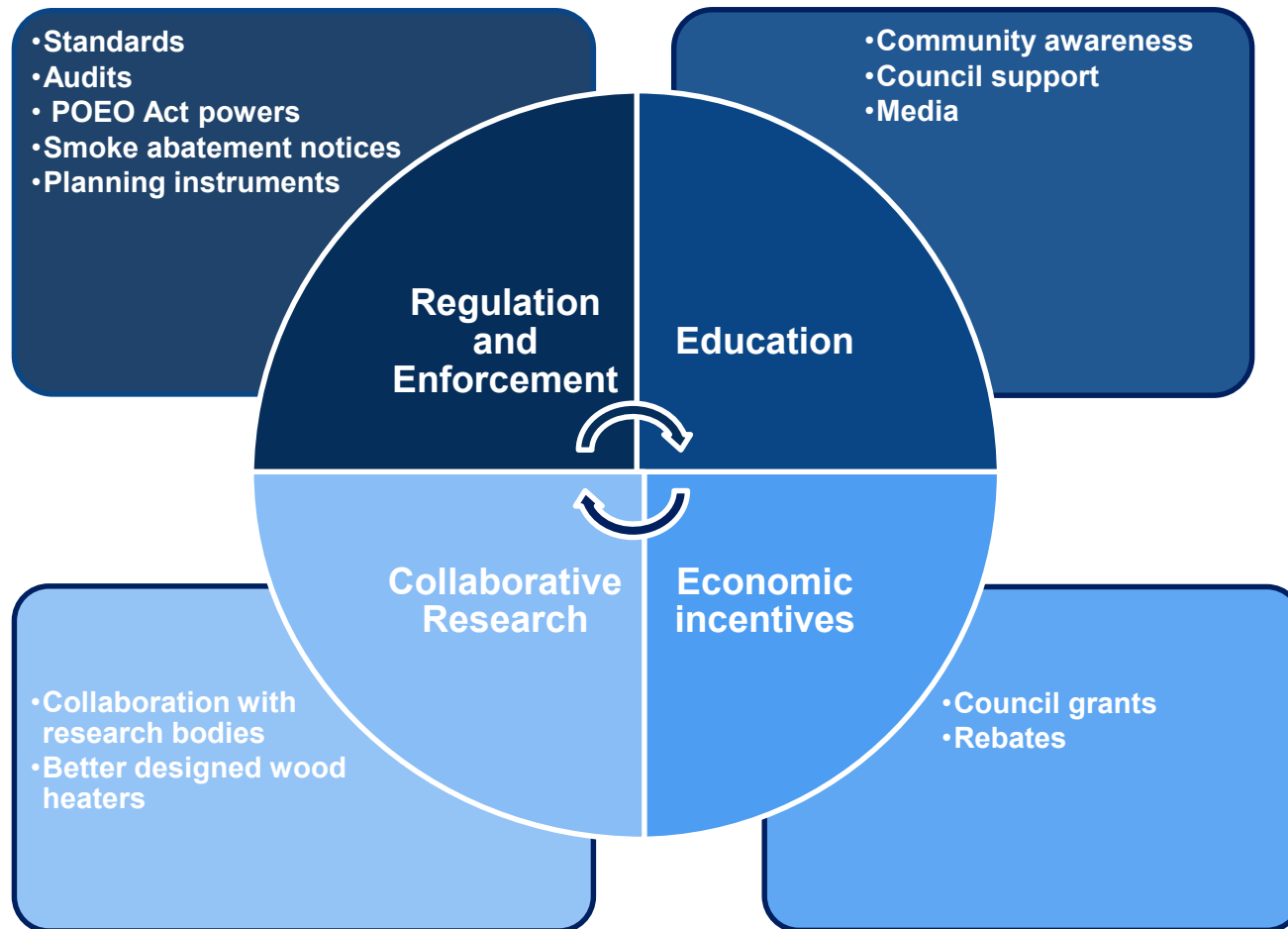
David Fowler

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WOOD SMOKE

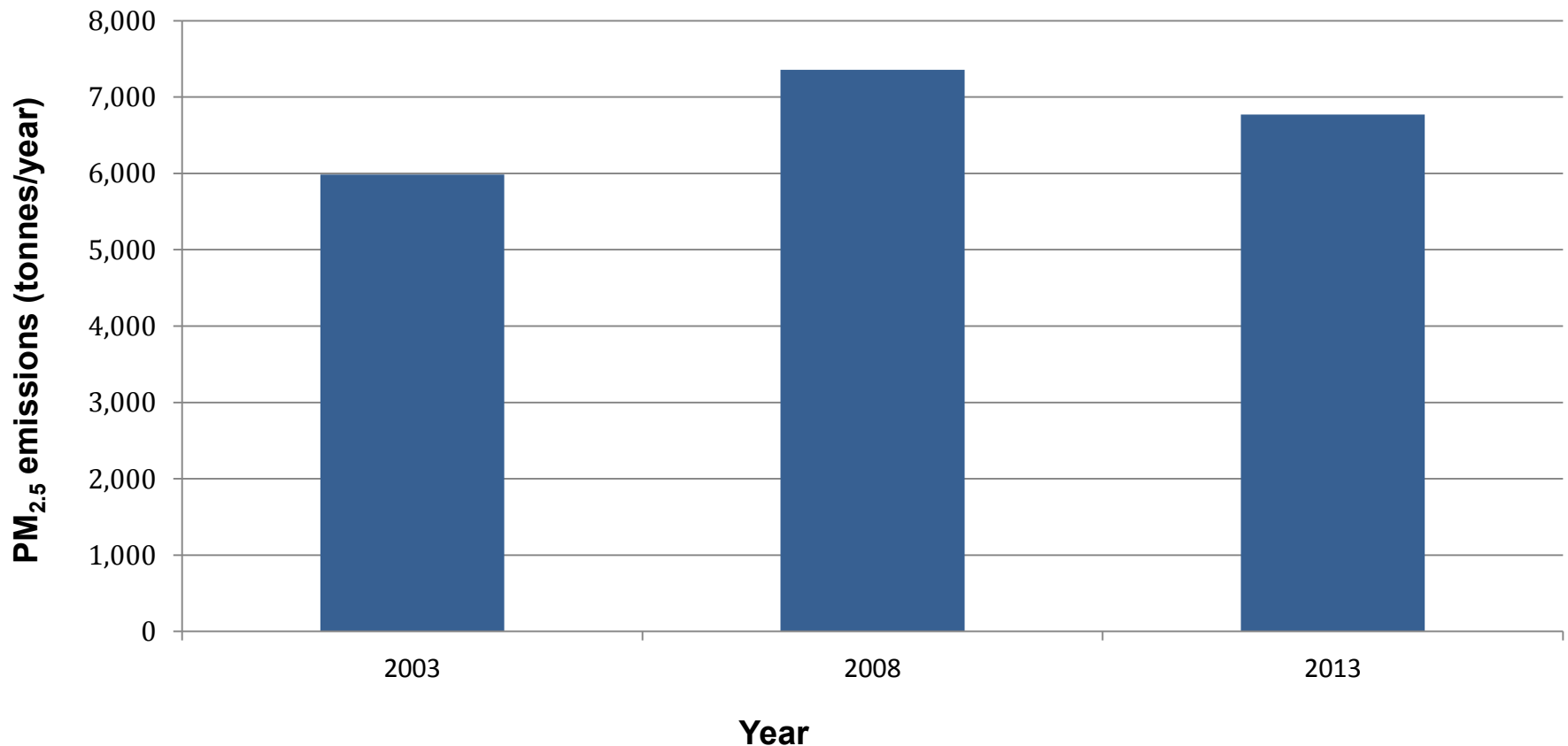


MULTIFACETED STRATEGY

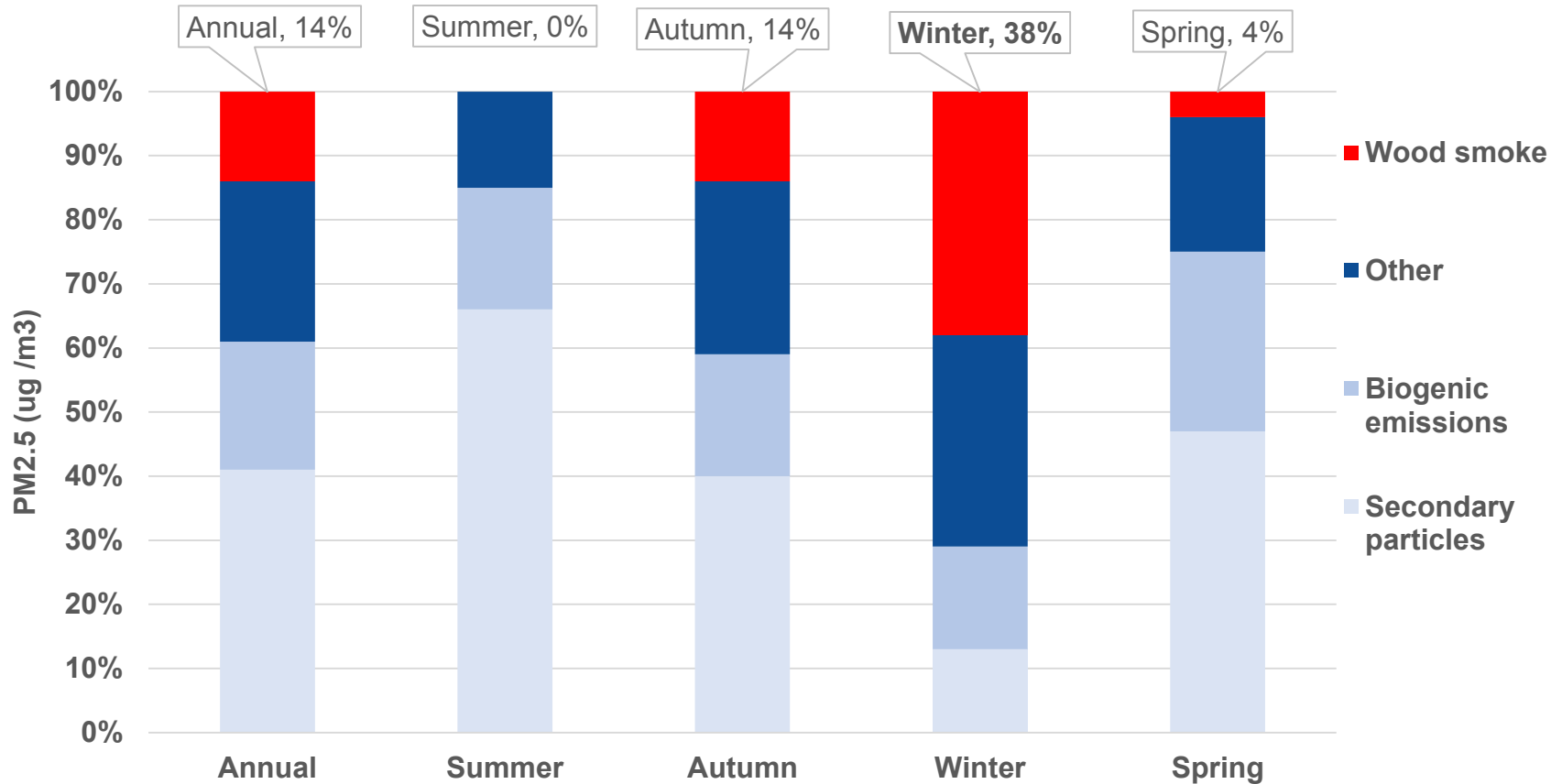


EMISSIONS IN THE SYDNEY GMR

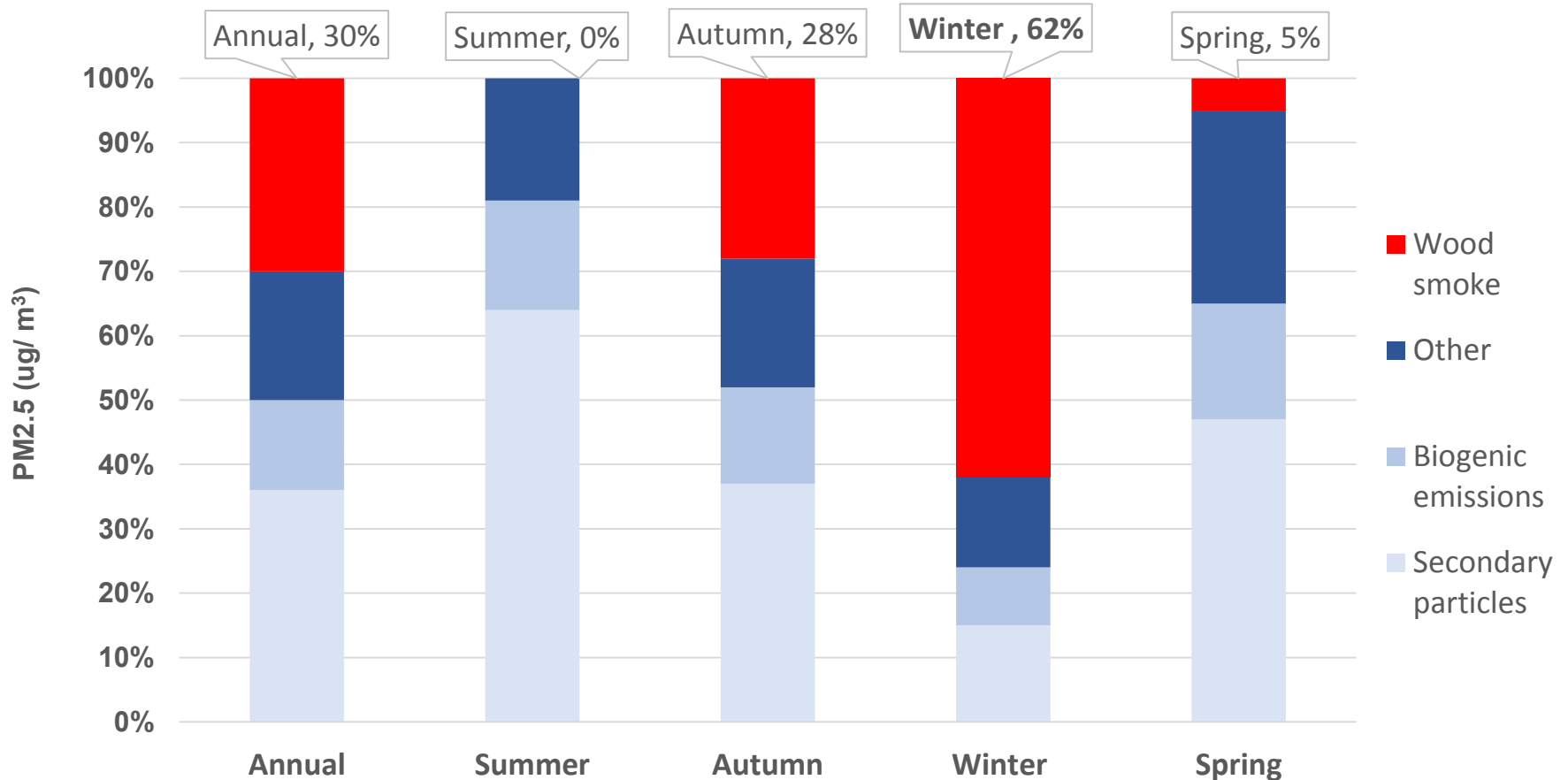
PM_{2.5} GMR emissions from wood combustion from 2003 to 2013



WOOD SMOKE IN SINGLETON 2012



WOOD SMOKE IN MUSWELLBROOK 2012



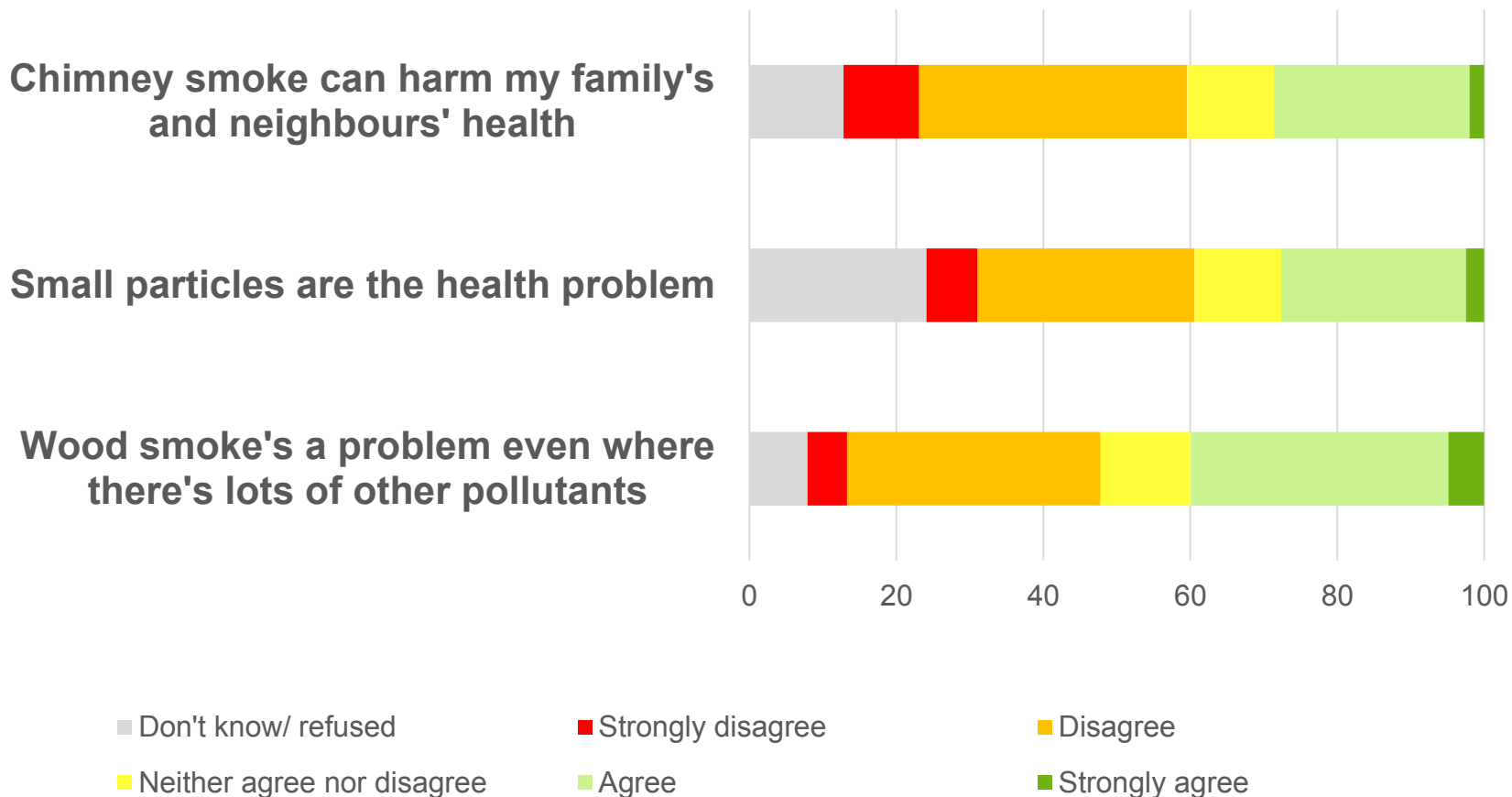
WHY THE HUNTER VALLEY?



SOCIAL RESEARCH

- **Objectives**
 - **Understand public attitudes about impacts of wood smoke**
 - **Understand heating choices**
 - **Recommendations for education approach**

LACK OF AWARENESS



Previous campaigns

What you can do

By making a few simple changes you can enjoy the warmth of your wood heater and reduce wood smoke and its impact on you and other people in your community.

-  Use only small logs of seasoned, untreated wood
-  Store wood under cover in a dry, ventilated area
-  Use several small logs rather than one large log
-  Increase the air supply if you see your chimney smoking
-  Maintain a bright flame, never let your heater smoulder

Tips to reduce smoke...

- Choose small, dry logs – unseasoned wood has a high moisture content which makes a smoky fire.
- When lighting a cold heater, use plenty of kindling to establish a good fire quickly.
- When refuelling your fire, open the air controls to full for a few minutes then add some newspaper and small pieces of wood. Keep the air controls open for 10-15 minutes after you have added the fuel. This will produce a less smoky fire.
- Have your chimney cleaned every year. Creosote is a sticky black residue that can build up in your chimney – it restricts airflow and makes your fire harder to start. A creosote-clogged chimney can spill smoke into your room when you open the heater, and even catch fire, putting your home at risk.

Find out more...

To find out more about reducing wood smoke pollution visit www.epa.nsw.gov.au/woodsmoke or call your local council.

For information on the health impacts of wood smoke, visit www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/environmental/wood_smoke_pub.html or contact your local Public Health Unit.



Stay warm breathe easy

Wood Smoke Reduction Program



Wood smoke affects your health and pollutes the air

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IF YOU CAN SMELL IT, YOU'RE ALREADY BREATHING IT.



Wood is a natural material, but when burned it produces particle pollution that is harmful to everyone.

To reduce the harmful effects of wood smoke, follow these steps:

- 1 Clean your chimney every year.
- 2 Use only dry, aged, untreated wood.
- 3 Use small logs instead of one large one.
- 4 Don't let your fire smoulder overnight.
- 5 Consider a cleaner heating method.

Remember, even in small amounts, wood smoke pollutants can be harmful, especially to the young, frail or elderly.

WOOD SMOKE ISN'T GOOD SMOKE.

For more information visit epa.nsw.gov.au/woodsmoke

MYTH BUSTERS



MYTH
There are more important pollution sources to worry about.

BUSTED!
There are other pollution sources, but wood burning occurs right in the neighbourhood where we live.

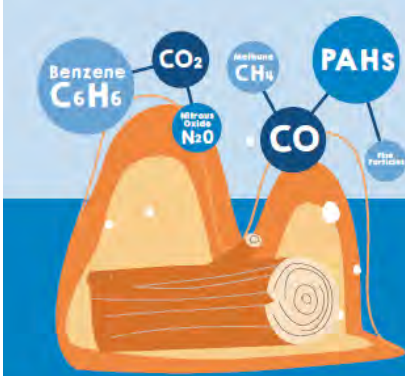
WOOD SMOKE **ISN'T** GOOD SMOKE. For more information visit epa.nsw.gov.au/woodsmoke 



MYTH
Collecting and burning dead wood is environmentally friendly.

BUSTED!
Collecting wood from roadsides and reserves can reduce habitat and biodiversity of several plants and animals, such as sugar gliders who make their homes in the cavities of dead wood.


WOOD SMOKE **ISN'T** GOOD SMOKE. For more information visit epa.nsw.gov.au/woodsmoke 



MYTH
Wood smoke is natural, so it must be okay.

BUSTED!
Wood is a natural material, but when burned it produces harmful particle pollution.

Diagram labels: Benzene C_6H_6 , CO_2 , Methane CH_4 , PAHs, CO , Nitrogen Oxide NO_x , Fine Particles.

WOOD SMOKE **ISN'T** GOOD SMOKE. For more information visit epa.nsw.gov.au/woodsmoke 

CLEAN AIR FOR NSW

- **Feedback from trials in Singleton & Muswellbrook**
- **Roll out material to all NSW councils**
- **Feedback from Summit**
- **Continued investigation by the EPA into the optimal approach for NSW**

ANIMATIONS



Clean Air Summit

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