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Survey Name:	Clean Air for NSW Consultation
Submitted On:	15/11/2016 7:47:04 PM
Q 1: Title:	N/A
Q 2: Surname:	Cordingley
Q 3: Given name:	James
Q 4: Organisation:	N/A
Q 5: Residential or postal address:	[REDACTED]
Q 6: Town or suburb:	[REDACTED]
Q 7: State/territory:	NSW
Q 8: Postcode:	[REDACTED]
Q 9: Phone:	N/A
Q 10: Mobile:	[REDACTED]
Q 11: Country:	Australia
Q 12: Email:	[REDACTED]
Q 13: Please add your comments here:	<p>With regards to the goal to reduce domestic wood heater pollution, the NSW government and EPA has long overlooked the areas where wood heater pollution is at its worst- rural NSW. The government conveniently doesn't monitor the air quality at Armidale, which, during winter, would most likely lay claim to the most polluted place in the state, if the NSW government installed a monitoring station there. The Armidale Dumeresq council carries out its own PM2.5 monitoring. Yet, the NSW government has decided not to carry out their own monitoring, or coordinate with the council to use their data. I'd hazard a guess and say that the government is scared of the numbers that would be returned from PM2.5 monitoring in Armidale. It's easier to turn a blind eye, than admit there is a problem, or a health crisis in regional NSW.</p> <p>This isn't a new problem, or new news- my high school Geography textbook had a section on air quality, and of all the places in Australia the writers of that textbook chose Armidale as a case study for air quality (spoiler alert, it wasn't because of how little pollution there was!). There has been research done by the University of New England on the health effects and premature deaths per year in Armidale due to pollution (11.5 premature deaths per year, a rate of around 1 in 2500), at a substantial monetary cost. Thousands of Armidale kids play sport on weekends</p>

during winter, often during dangerous levels of pollution. I cringe to think of the damage being done to those kids respiratory systems and what damage has been done to mine during all of those weekends spent running around playing soccer during an Armidale winter and breathing in that crisp, polluted country air. I'd love to see some numbers on the rates of Asthma in children in Armidale vs the rest of the state.

The new standards on wood heaters will make a difference, but there needs to be some sort of policy to assist local councils bring in rebates for other forms of heating. It just isn't economically viable for people in colder areas of the state like Armidale to run other forms of heating.

The NSW government needs to take some responsibility for the health of it's citizens as local councils lack the resources to effectively tackle this issue.

The media outside of local, regional newspapers has neglected to cover this issue I came across this paper from a SMH article on premature deaths in Sydney due to smoke from backburning, yet the rate at what they occurred, (1 in 70,000), is nowhere near that experienced in places like Armidale year after year.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these points. For more information, the Armidale Wikipedia page conveniently has a section on air pollution with links to peer reviewed articles and other information websites.

Q 14: Or, upload your comments:

N/A

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