

[REDACTED]

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To Whom it may concern,

**Re: Woodsmoke pollution in suburban areas**

Would like to voice my concern over the high level of pollution from wood fire heaters and believe the Australian standards are less than satisfactory in regards to the health of everyone around them.

I live in a suburban area and have found that my home is often consumed whenever one is lit forcing me to shut all windows, doors to help stop the smoke coming inside.

When staying at my sister's place I have experienced headaches, coughing and go home with my clothes smelling of smoke it is that bad. On occasions even the smoke detector has been set off.

Often see the neighbourhood covered in a smoke cloud – how healthy is this for the community?

The neighbours have been approached but do not believe they have to do anything about problem. One particular neighbour burns for up to eight months of the year (winter months burning 24hrs).

The phrase comes to mind: "I'm ok so bugger off".

**FOR woodfires:**

1. Keep warm
2. Ambience of a fireplace.

**AGAINST woodfires:**

1. Pollution
2. Smoke/fumes emitting into neighbouring houses
3. Health being affected by breathing in the smoke i.e. headaches, lungs etc
4. Smell goes right through house making clothes etc. smell like a fire
5. Trees being cut down to fuel the fireplaces
6. Driftwood, treated pine being used
7. No support for people being affected from the smoke of others
8. Health problems putting more strain on health system
9. Neighbour disputes.
10. Industry driven regulations, conflict of interest

The government is so strict, continuing to come down on cigarette smoke (I am a non smoker) - how is wood smoke any different if not worse? If cigarette smoking is banned in public areas etc. why aren't wood fires that consume neighbourhoods?

**WHAT CAN BE DONE:**

1. Council incur a levy (equal to that of cigarette tax) on all who own wood heaters
2. Government to put in place a phasing out of wood heaters asap
3. Government to oversee regulations not the industry
4. Wood heaters must go through Council for approval in the meantime
5. Council to notify neighbouring properties for their comment/concern.
6. Government run campaigns' warning the public of the health hazards of wood smoke

Appears to be very lopsided for someone who chooses not to have a wood fire ending up and suffering the smoke of another's wood fire.

Please put in place strict regulations to safeguard the community and the environment. Thank you for your urgent action in this important matter.

Yours faithfully

