

The Health Impacts of Air Quality in Australia

We are sufferers of domestic wood smoke pollution urban Sydney. and our research has alerted us to the toxic nature of the microfine particles (PM_{2.5}s) and the potentially carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) emitted by even the latest AS 4013 compliant wood burning heaters.

We ask the Committee to give serious consideration to the plight of those people living in urban areas and who are unfortunate enough to live next door to a domestic wood burning heater..... Some of which operate 24/7 during the winter months.

It seems clear that the regional or suburban pollution levels for PM₁₀, PM_{2.5} compiled at the few monitoring stations scattered around Sydney will have little relevance to the very high concentrations of particulates in the immediate vicinity of a wood burning heater. Such concentrations will be amplified on those very cold still nights when the pollution is trapped under an inversion layer and confined to an area of a few hundred square metres around the source..... the very nights when owners elect to burn on low setting all night.

It also seems to follow that those people exposed to the very high concentrations found in these situations will be the most likely to suffer adverse respiratory health effects..... the ones who will impact on both federal and state health costs.

Committee we ask you to seriously consider a program that will ultimately ban the use of all wood burning fires and heating appliances in urban areas and in the meantime using your influence to have the maximum PM_{2.5} emissions reduced to < 0.7g /Kg for all new appliances effective immediately.

We are an elderly couple, both with compromised lung function, and we are unfortunate enough to live next door to a newly installed wood burner that keeps us indoors in a sealed home for the whole winter..... and we must turn our externally exhausted gas fire off to avoid sucking in the pollution from next door IS THIS FAIR?

Thank you for your consideration

William and Susan Thomson