

Fri 3/06/2022 3:32 PM

Margaret O'Connor [REDACTED]

Preliminary submission on POEO (Clean Air) Regulation 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

The proposal relating to the above to adopt a Business as Usual approach to regulation of wood heaters is enormously disappointing. Enraging in fact.

As an elected councillor I am asked year on year for help with the shocking air quality suffered by Armidale residents and the illnesses our children and adults suffer that are clearly related to the excess levels of wood smoke in our winter air. I have examined council regulations and without stronger support from the NSW government we are powerless to improve our winter air quality.

The link between health impacts and costs of woodsmoke pollution is clearly established and was in fact adumbrated in great detail by government researchers and medical doctors at the NSW Air Quality summit on 30 June 2017. Five years have passed and the NSW government has become entrenched in an unwillingness to assist local communities like mine, or address the health issues related to woodfire emissions by better regulation.

I cannot believe the heartlessness of this position. People and in particular young children in our community are forced into our already super stressed regional health services to find relief while the small amount of funds it would take to help us and the regulatory change you could do, *based on established evidence by your own medical officers*, is withheld.

Why? This is the opposite of good government.

The estimated cost of directly related health costs of wood heater pollution (over 20 years) of \$8B (NSW government research in 2012) versus the claimed \$413.2 M benefit of a BAU position (or indeed relaxing all restrictions!) (over twenty years) indicates the unreasonableness of the proposed Regulation.

Sincerely

Councillor Margaret O'Connor

ARMIDALE REGIONAL COUNCIL

[REDACTED]