

Sat 21/05/2022 11:25 AM

Linda Wyburn [REDACTED]

POEO Clean Air Regulation 2022 – Feedback

Hello,

I was unable to open the feedback area of the POEO Clean Air Regulation 2022 webpage so i am writing this email to provide feedback on the contents of the regulation.

In regard to living in suburban Newcastle, a considerable number of young families all around my property have taken up burning timber for recreation in their backyards every winter as soon as the temperature drops in fact and this is creating smoke filled environment that didn't exist before the popularity of fire pits and it would appear there is a tolerance by local Council and NSW Government in very rubbery wording of the Clean Air Regulation to allow the recreational burning of timber in suburban backyards in NSW.

The draft regulation indicates in Division 4, Clause 14 that 'picnicking' is okay, this wording is a deliberate non-specific description of the area allowed to burn timber such as for suburban use of fire pits as it could be interpreted that the location of suburbia is acceptable, well i say this is unacceptable to allow the outdoor recreational use of burning timber e.g. fire pits and i am saying the regulation needs to be specific in its wording, why isn't public health being considered in the regulation? If health was a consideration, the 'picnicking' allowance would not be included and the location of where outdoor fires are acceptable would be stipulated and currently the regulation does not address the location such as suburban back yards so I would say unless location is restricted by not allowing open fires in backyards in suburbia, then the regulation is pointless in providing clean air to humans.

I am very much intolerant of breathing in smoke when i am in my backyard from adjoining properties and I have experienced having my clothes reeking of smoke from neighbours fire pits from simply watering plants in my backyard in the early evenings and the smoke from adjacent property fire pits goes through my house. The NSW Government regulation needs to be worded so that the population of NSW is protected from having health issues from fire pit use that is increasing rapidly, anyone with asthma or other lung disorders must be very worried at the current lack of regulation. Not to mention the climate change induced extreme weather event issues we are experiencing and appears there is a lack of appetite from government (both federal and state) to address the basics of regulation of pollution when there is tolerance for adding more smoke into the environment from putting carbon into the atmosphere from burning more timber in outdoor fire pit use. So how are chimneys required from internal timber fires but outdoor fire pits are okay with smoke produced and not directed anywhere?

Just because i do not wish to put a fire pit in my backyard and place a family all around it, does not mean that my health and environment concerns should be dismissed in favour of allowing the fire pit explosion over suburbia to continue, it would appear the regulation is currently worded to avoid a middle class backlash.

Please put public health first and stop backyard recreational fires please, i would like to breathe clean air throughout winter before the next summer fire season when we have to close our windows again from dangerous bush fire smoke.

Thank you,

Linda Wyburn.

[REDACTED] Newcastle.