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Matthew Thredgold [REDACTED]

Clean air policy submission

Here is my clean air policy submission.

The only acceptable policy position on all wood heaters is a complete ban.
All new builds should be prohibited from installing wood burners.
All new installations of wood burners should be banned.
All sales of wood burners should be prohibited.
Wood stoves should be removed before a house can be sold.
There should be a rapid phase out of all wood burners in New South Wales. Certainly taking no longer than 18 months.
New for old replacement policies of woodheaters are an exercise in greenwashing and are not a solution.

The official policy of government should be that wood burning pollutes at levels that are harmful no matter how the wood is burnt and no matter the heater it is in. Smartburn type information campaigns are based on the falsehood that there is a clean way to burn wood, and there just isn't.

There is zero confidence in the current standards of emissions from wood heaters. The standards process was compromised by the stove industry involvement. They came up with a standard that does not prevent air pollution. The government should state that they have no confidence in the wood heater emission standards. Heaters that supposedly meet the current standards do not meet those standards when measured in real world use. [REDACTED]

Local councils should have the power to remove problem wood heaters.
There should be no onus of proof on the complainants that the smoke is a nuisance, because all smoke is a nuisance. It should take only one complaint for a wood heater to be ordered to be removed. An information campaign should be made statewide informing people of their right to complain about polluting woodburners.

The wood burner policy should be science based. The science is unequivocal. Wood smoke causes death and disease and there is no safe exposure limit. Therefore the only rational policy is to completely prohibit wood burners.
Bans should include other solid fuel burners including coal and wood pellet burners. Even at their cleanest wood pellet burners (1.0 grams of PM2.5 per kg of fuel) are hundreds of times too polluting.

Stricter ambient air pollution standards should apply. PM2.5 standards of below 5.0 micrograms per m³ of air should never be exceeded. Pollution limits of ultrafine particulates should also be introduced.

There should be a programme so that all schools should have a particulate monitor and report to a statewide network with data available to the public.

All firepits should be banned. All firepit sales should be prohibited.
It should be a criminal offence to have a firepit in a residential setting.

Campfires and fire rings should be removed from all NSW National and state parks and from all campgrounds.

Solid fuel BBQs should be banned from sale and use.

If the NSW government does not ban wood burners it would be a dereliction of duty of care to the people of New South Wales. It would be a failure of government. Wood smoke kills. Wood smoke sickens. Wood smoke annoys. It is only a minority of households who are ruining air quality for the majority. It is not fair. It is outrageous that they are allowed to. Change the law. Save lives.

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