

Author name: B. Ewald

Date of submission: Monday, 9 May 2016

Submission: Local government has never tackled the problem of air pollution from wood burning heaters, and this may be expensive for them. The standards for emissions from new heaters are not the answer to this problem, as they assume the use of perfect high quality wood which is rarely the case. In real use, even new heaters that meet the standard produce large amounts of dangerous air particulates.

licencing fees for wood burning heaters are needed. The latest emissions inventory (compiled by the NSW EPA for 2008) for Sydney show that despite only 5% of Sydney households using wood as the main form of heating, the inventory lists 5,457 tonnes of PM2.5 (the most health-hazardous air pollutant) emissions from residential wood heating more than all other sources – 1,552 tonnes from on-road vehicles, 1,935 from industry, 952 from off-road vehicles and 184 tonnes from other sources.

Local government for urban areas should be expected to control air pollution from wood burning heaters, and funded to undertake this new work.