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Sent: Tuesday, 10 May 2016 7:52 PM
To: IPART Mailbox

Subject: SUBMISSION: REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT RATING SYSTEM

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute suggestions.

I strongly suggest that NSW Councils be empowered to charge sufficiently high installation and annual licence fees to act as a deterrent to the use of domestic wood heating in towns and cities across NSW.

Currently wood burners have far too much power to adversely affect the health of other people living, working, exercising and visiting in an area with little fear that a local Council will take any effective action to protect the health and lifestyle of the innocent. Wood heaters are operated in some parts of NSW from as early as March until December each year. It is grossly unfair to people trying to live a healthy lifestyle to not be able to air their houses by opening doors and windows, spend time outdoors exercising and in their gardens etc for up to two thirds of each year. It requires only a very brief exposure outdoors before worrying symptoms develop such as irritation of nasal passages, throat, eyes and chest. 'Flu like symptoms following exposure can last for up to two weeks.

Money raised by such fees should be used exclusively to bring domestic wood heating emissions under immediate control. This could take the form of legal action against repeat offenders, the offer of a realistic rebate to encourage low income earners to convert to a cleaner form of heating, annual wood smoke reduction campaigns (although many ignore such campaigns it would certainly be preferable to no action) etc.

A far better option, of course, and the only sensible course of action from a health and economic perspective, is for Councils to ban wood heaters in residential areas where electricity and reticulated gas are available.

Of utmost importance is that the health of NSW residents should not be dependent upon a local Council deciding whether or not it will accept its responsibility to protect

public health in this regard. The majority of NSW Councils do very little, if anything,

on an ongoing basis to alleviate adverse health effects and lifestyle restrictions for NSW residents affected by almost 24/7 domestic wood heating emissions over three seasons each year.

Day time wood burning is a particular health and lifestyle problem and should be banned immediately where electricity is available.

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