

From: [ECInfo](#)
To: [Mailroom Mailbox](#)
Subject: FW: submission on clean air plan EMAIL:04932658
Date: Friday, 27 March 2015 3:36:36 p.m.
Attachments: [{cidF541A8DBDC7FF7429012D9CD30366D6A@ecan.govt.nz}Submission on clean air for Christchurch city.docx](#)
Importance: Low

Hello Team

This email came in through our Customer Services email. Can you please workflow?

Ngā mihi

Christine

Customer Services

----- Original Message -----

From: Pastoll Steve

Received: 27/03/2015 1:48 p.m.

To: ECInfo; Environment Canterbury; Services Customer; Services Customer

Subject: submission on clean air plan

Please find attachment with my submission.

Steve PASTOLL

My submission on clean air for Christchurch city

This subject has been for many years a bone of contention with me, as it is always the people who have home burning heating appliances that have been blamed for the poor air condition in winter in Christchurch.

I have lived in the suburb of Bishopdale for almost 30 years. In the nineteen nineties, when I purchased my house it had an open "space" heater. This burnt firewood or coal and it sent most of the heat up the chimney into the night or day sky, with little benefit to us, trying to stay warm in the fierce cold winters. My neighbour had a coal fire, which was like an old steam tug boat, more smoke than boat..they eventually had a gas fire replacement.

And I will say that going out at night then, it was almost impossible to see more than twenty feet ahead as visibility was impaired by a pall of smoky fog. If one cared to find the source of this it could be found coming from chimneys that were damped down I think the term was to allow a good night`s smouldering so that in the morning one only had to open the flue valve add some wood and away it would go with no preparation. As with all such irritants there was collective blame, all people with wood-burners were deemed responsible. The council authorities could have had employees out there to identify the culprits and get them to change their bad habits. I heard of people continually burning treated building wood offcuts (highly toxic), old bike tyre inner tubes to start their fires and proud of it. It seems collective blame is easier than individual confrontation.

Along came new type wood burners. I had one installed. This was great, they were efficient, radiated sufficient heat to keep the house warm, at a reasonable cost, much less than electric power.

We were really thankful for that wood burner when we suffered electric power failure in the harsh winters of the nineties and most recently as 2011/2012, were able to stay warm.

Articles still appeared in the press, berating the wood burners, and their householders for emitting foul smoke into the winter air in Christchurch, causing bronchial failure, asthma and various other pulmonary ailments.

There were few air-conditioner heat pumps available in New Zealand in the nineties, and those that were to be had were for a king`s ransom.

I was told by council at the end of 15 years after my first wood burner installation; that it was no longer permitted to be used by me between certain dates (i.e. not to be used in the winter months).

My only choice was to remove it and replace it with a modern one that was to be" clean air approved" (by who one may ask is the ultimate expert on heating appliances)

This new burner cost about \$5000 including permit/ inspection and installation. The installation was first council inspected and when I tested it, much to my dismay it could not output the heat the previous one had.

What a shame all this time and money spent for a less efficient piece of equipment. As it happens the old one (I did not pay to get dumped ...landfill choker) but gave it to a friend building a house in the country (where no clean air regulations prevail). It has since been installed and providing all the heat they need. I may add it never smoked apart from initial start -up, when operated properly, the new burner takes longer to start up as it cannot draw air like the old one and puts out less heat.

As I understand the hotter the output the more complete the combustion of the fuel. So where does the less combusted fuel end up in the new devices?

It has since been realised that adequate warmth in an occupied home is necessary for the occupants wellbeing and hence all the current flurry of activity surrounding under floor, wall, ceiling insulation, and all manner of heat pumps, electric heating, or gas fires, (even worse if un-flued) where the moisture content due to combustion almost exceeds the value of the heat output. Moist air takes masses of energy to warm up and dry.

I have one final issue, I am a mountain biker and often ride up to the port hills and enjoy the view from the summit, when having a short rest and look to the city in the west. In summer when it's warm, the air above the city of Christchurch is just as smoky and hazy as when observed in the winter months...with no wood burner emissions.

I think the cause is industrial and the buses, the trucks, the cars that belch out the smoke. Try and cycle behind a bus or any diesel fuelled truck or car and you will understand. All of the latter is possibly most of the cause of winter air pollution coupled with the inversion layer.

What I would like the council to do.

Do allow log burners even new installations in new homes, because when electric power fails in severe situations like in the recent earthquakes, big snow storms, it is more important that people can get warm and stay that way, including cooking, boiling water. The new type log burners have had those functions removed. (A removable top panel above the firebox to cook on in an emergency).

Target individuals who continually allow their chimneys to smoke! Educate! Maybe it's time to reduce taxes/ prices on home heating energy, electricity gas wood. Petition government.

Target buses, trucks, four wheel drives, cars and vehicles that drive along our roads emitting clouds of smoke. This will include many council owned vehicles. Get them to clean up their act as well as all of us who have to.

Thank you.

Regards

Mr Steven PASTOLL

31 Twyford Street

Bishopdale

Christchurch 8053