

From: [ECInfo](#)
To: [Mailroom Mailbox](#)
Subject: FW: Submission concerning Air Quality EMAIL:04932877
Date: Thursday, 9 April 2015 4:59:48 p.m.
Attachments: [{cidE9F241A4D3AB254291B113F580391A8D@ecan.govt.nz}Stubble fires Ecan submission 15.doc](#)
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: Allan Rosa Raeburn

Received: 9/04/2015 4:43 p.m.

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

Subject: Submission concerning Air Quality

Hi Please find attached my submission expressing my views on Air quality in South Canterbury.

Thank you

Rosa Allan

Submission to Environment Canterbury

Concerning Rural burn-offs and stubble-burning

'Cleaner Air' page 16

Name: Rosa Raeburn Allan Phone: 03 6963886
0276963007
Signature: Rosa R Allan Date: May 9 2015
Address: Wattie Bush Email: br.wattiebush@gmail.com
Peel Forest
565 Blair Road
RD 22 Geraldine 7992

Land owner/farmer and resident in South Canterbury

Prepared to discuss in person.

Your Submission

I submit that the 'Autumntime' air pollution caused via the farming practice of crop residue burn-off each year in the South Canterbury rural and urban 'airshed' is significant, alarming and widely discussed by concerned residents and visitors to the area. I also have a concern for the future health of our Canterbury soils. It is very difficult to try to explain to our visitors how and why rural burn-offs and stubble burning are allowed in New Zealand when in other parts of the world it has been disallowed for many years.

I support Ecan's statement that business and farming activities should not harm the environment but do not see evidence that Ecan has seriously addressed the issue of the adverse effects of crop residue burn-offs. A close look at consenting the removal of large quantities of 'green' trees which are then burnt for days on end would be appreciated.

Ecan has an obligation as stated in it's objectives to control the possibility of the discharge of contaminants into the air. Smoke pollution from rural burn-offs and stubble-burning effects our residents physical and mental health (nothing more depressing than experiencing many massive smoke laden fires filling the atmosphere on an otherwise magical Autumn day). (Surprising to see crop residue being burnt off in this past dry season with a total fire ban for the rest of us.) The impression given to us, our national and international tourists is very negative - Where is ECANs 'environmental' conscience?

Not only is our air effected but the soil also. A quote from Dr John Baker International Soil Scientist March 2014 made while visiting South Canterbury - 'The practice of burning crop residues removes most of the carbon present in the residues of the previous crop by converting it to CO₂ by combustion. The main way to maximise arable soil quality and health is to increase its carbon content - **not burn it off**'. *It would be great if ECAN could lead the way to encourage our landowners into better practices.*

I am pleased to read that ECAN has begun to appreciate the more than 'nuisance' value of rural burn-offs and stubble -burning. I look forward to seeing that these very negative practices are being addressed.

What do you want Environment Canterbury to do?

Please Environment Canterbury will you address any effects of the common rural practice of burn-offs and stubble burning. This should be included in the present or immediate future funding research allocations made by Ecan.

Please make sufficient funds available in Ecan's annual plan to cover a close monitoring and formal assessment of the effects of the farming practice of crop residue burn-off during the season that this takes place and appropriate action be taken to discourage this happening again. Air in the South Canterbury rural and urban 'airshed' needs monitoring from the end of January to the end of May each year (not only during Winter).

Please Ecan encourage cropping farmers to listen - be there to lead the way towards ways of managing or ceasing their practice of crop residue burn-off. A look at more sustainable uses for residue straw, a look at sustainable ways of retaining organic nutrients and useful organisms in the soil presently destroyed by the residue burn-off practice and a look at avoiding misuse of **rural fire volunteers** time.

Thank you for this opportunity.