Make Submission

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Event Name Proposed Canterbury Air Regional Plan
Submission by Mr Peter Collins
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To Be Heard

Please select the appropriate option from the following:

I DO NOT wish to be heard in support of my submission;
or

If so
My submission is that:

- Support
- Oppose

Please state your reasons for supporting/opposing/amendments sought

My reason(s) for supporting, opposing or requesting amendments to this specific provision are:

Submission to Canterbury Air Regional Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to the Canterbury Air Regional Plan.

Population Demographics.

Waimate has statistics well above the national average when referring to our population demographics of the elderly and low income families. The replacement of an estimated 550 fire places in this community would amount to an unacceptable financial burden to a population largely on fixed incomes. (Est. 2-3 million dollars for Low Emitting W/B – This figure could double if the regulation to enforce the fitting of only Ultra Low Emitting W/B proceeds)

Data Accuracy

I find it difficult to believe the accuracy of data collected for Waimate’s whole air shed from 1 site only. I have been informed the measuring instruments are very expensive and Environment Canterbury is
reluctant to invest further to ensure accurate results. I find this quite baffling given we as a community are being asked to front up with at least 2-3 million under a plan from which is built on information which is potentially inaccurate. I understand this is an issue shared with other towns in our district. Timaru, as I understand, has had extensive fitments of heat pumps within the air shed but test results have not indicated any substantial improvement as the testing site is situated at Washdyke. This would lead you to believe the results are not reflecting what is happening throughout the air shed.

**Education program**

In Environment Canterbury’s 2014 Discussion Document it states, “We think that better burning practices and the voluntary upgrade of wood burning appliances will be enough to achieve the NESAQ in Waimate.”

While the upgrading of wood burners is to be encouraged, without an initial education program designed to reach the target audience on “good burning practice” these replacements could be in vein. Burning of wet wood or prohibited fuels on any fire, low emitting or not is not recommended and will have similar results.

I support the banning of coal as a fuel and open fires. I am also somewhat confused as to why Environment Canterbury is still allowing its use when almost all NZ coal exceeds the 1% sulphur content allowed by Environment Canterbury. There is now very little coal burnt or open fires in Waimate and would therefore affect few households.

My last point about the time frames, I believe some of the worst offenders would have practiced these habits over decades and our intentions are to change them over night. While I am of the opinion that education is still our best tool in the box, I would encourage you to look at extending the time frames to see if the good wood and education programs are going to be successful in lowing the emissions first.

Thank you
Peter Collins

*Please give precise details for each provision. The more specific you can be the easier it will be for the Council to understand the outcome you are seeking.*

**I seek the following decisions from Environment Canterbury:**

I would like EC to treat Waimate as a town with a small exceedance and allow local solutions to this before painting us the same as towns or cities with big (by comparisson) problems. I would like Waimate to follow a path of education to meet compliance before the community is struck with costly alternatives.

**Air Shed**

**Which Air Shed does this submission relate to or none**

**Choose one of the following three**

**Tick relevant topics**