

Submission form

Tukuna mai ōu whakaaro

This is where you can have your say. It's easy to do: just fill in the form and post it to us using the Freepost number below.

Submissions close at 5pm on Monday April 13, 2015.

You may send your submission:

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Online: Use the online form provided on our website www.ecan.govt.nz/plans.

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FILE REF: COMM PLAN 1525 2			
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ACTION			
M Roesler			

Please fill in your contact details below

Your name DR JOHN ELLIOTT

Your organisation and role in it (if applicable) —

Date

23-3-15

Tick the box if you wish to discuss your submission in person ☐

I do not wish my contact details to be made public ☐

All submissions are public documents. Copies will be published on the Environment Canterbury website.

Your submission

What do you want Environment Canterbury to do?

I have long been opposed to a strict interpretation of the clean air zone. The automatic phasing out of log burners over 15 yrs is an expensive business.

There is no need to be so strict on your interpretation of the clean air zone

Air Quality is a public health issue & not an environmental issue

Air quality should be a public health issue not an environmental issue

I enclose an article in 'The Press'

Continued on next page

Newspaper by DR JAN WRIGHT.

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Kaunihera Taiao ki Waitaha

*Facilitating sustainable development
in the Canterbury region*

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Pollution guidelines outdated

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Canterbury's air pollution problem is not as serious as the Government's "outdated" rules indicate, the parliamentary commissioner for the environment says.

Dr Jan Wright described air quality a "good news story" in her analysis of the 2014 air domain report, which analyses changes in air quality over time and the associated pressures and effects.

Air quality was steadily improving, unlike other environmental problems, such as water quality, she said.

Presenting at Lincoln University this week, Wright said the Government's air pollution standards, based on the "PM10 rule", were "10 years out of date".

PM10 is particles of less than 10 microns in diameter.

In New Zealand, the standard is to measure whether PM10 exceeds 50 micrograms per cubic metre in 24 hours.

The Government says areas of high pollution, like Canterbury, can have no more than three exceedance days a year by next year. The Christchurch airsheds had 19 last year and one so far this year.

Wright said this is the measure of "least importance".

"The WHO [World Health Organisation] is clear that the long-term exposure guidelines are more important than the short-term exposure guidelines because the health impact on the population is greater," she said.

In the 2014 air domain report, 50 per cent of airsheds failed under the PM10 rule, including all in Canterbury and most of the South Island.

Kaiapoi, Ashburton, Reefton, Dunedin, Gore, Ashburton, Alexandra, Invercargill are just over, with smoggy Timaru failing badly.

Wright said if the measure was adjusted to "long term" PM10 exposure, over 365 days, 87 per cent would pass, including Christchurch.

PM10 comes from combustion, including home heating, diesel

66 Air quality is a public health issue and should not be in the domain of regional councils.

Dr Jan Wright

cars and industry, sea spray, dirt and sulphate.

If an Australian assessment process was used, Christchurch air quality would be the second-highest standard of "good", she said.

Wright argued the measure "of most importance" was whether PM2.5, which was much smaller and capable of penetrating respiratory systems, was high over a longer period.

Air quality was a public health issue and should not be in the domain of regional councils, Wright said.

"The effect is on health, not on the natural environment."

"[It] would be counterproductive if, for instance, actions to reduce emissions from woodburners resulted in more cold, damp homes. It may be that public money spent by regional councils subsidising clean heat appliances would be better spent on smoking cessation programmes."

Minister for the Environment Nick Smith said air quality would remain with environmental issues.

"There are lots of environmental issues like water quality, pesticide management and other environmental regulations that have an effect on public health, but that does not mean they should not be managed by the [Ministry for the Environment]."

Environment Canterbury air director Katherine Trought said Wright made it clear in her report reducing "high pollution days" was still integral to air quality.

ECan was still bound by the Government's PM10 rule of 24 hour measures, she said.