

Tabled @ Healy 9/11/15
Waimate DC

Council's Verbal Presentation to Council's submission on the Proposed Air Regional Plan – 9 November 2015

1. Introduce yourself
2. On behalf of the Waimate District Council, I would like to thank the hearings panel for giving us time to speak to our submission today. The Council appreciates and supports the overall effort being made by Environment Canterbury to clean the air as a statutory responsibility to manage air quality and national health-based targets.
3. Firstly, under Policy 6.17 of the Proposed Air Plan, Council are seeking that the term 'township' be replaced with 'urban areas'. I see that the Section 42A officers report supports this change also.
4. Our main submission is about air quality around home heating and the use of wood (and coal) for fuel. Council is aware of the traditional use of older style wood burners, open fireplaces and multi-fuel burners in Waimate. Council is also aware of the need for cleaner air but is mindful of the financial burden that may be caused to some lower income homeowners, in order to upgrade their form of home heating. It is acknowledged that Environment Canterbury intends to provide financial support and initiatives but that will still have to be paid for by the community.
5. For the Waimate District, Council are seeking the voluntary replacement of older style wood burners but do consider that education and advocacy for better burning practices together with the Good Wood Merchant programme, should be the first approach to achieving compliance with the National Air Quality rules. While enforcement is paramount in achieving overall compliance, the targeting of the worst or regular offender with education of better burning practice is supported by Council.
6. We are pleased that the Section 42A officers report, for Waimate, is recommending support for the approach of working with individual households on reducing emissions through non-statutory supporting education and awareness programmes. We understand that the region-wide rule of "no visible smoke" will still apply.
7. We are also pleased that the report, for Waimate, is recommending that older style burners be required to be upgraded when a property is sold. This, we understand means that for Waimate, the older style burner (wood and multi-fuel?) can still remain after the 1 January 2020 until such time as the property is sold. The timing of replacement when a property is sold should lessen the perceived financial burden of replacing burners as the cost of the new burner or other means of home heating

can be added to mortgages, etc. This seems to go a long way to achieving Councils intention with its original submission, although Council does not support the use of coal for home heating after 1 January 2020. We understand that voluntary replacement of the older style burners can still occur in the interim period.

8. We support the banning of open fireplaces after 31 December 2016 for Waimate. We consider that replacement of the 40 odd open fireplaces in Waimate would contribute significantly to reducing our overall air emissions. Council would also support initiatives or subsidies or grants provided by Environment Canterbury that would expedite these replacements as a priority.
9. Council is seeking that the sulphur content of coal if used as a 'fuel source for home heating' is restricted or even prohibited, although we understand that presently, there are no new approved 'low emitting or ultra-low emitting' burners on the market that are capable of burning coal cleanly.
10. We are available to answer any questions.