

Canberra Times  
16 September 2025

### **Rethink wood heater ban**

Calum Paterson's letter "ACT ministers' claims hazy" (September 14) prompts the question of who has nobbled the government on its hitherto noble clean-air aspirations.

Calum Paterson has outlined the contradictions to be found within the government's rationale for its policy U-turn.

Then there is other compelling evidence, such as the lived experience of those in the Tuggeranong Valley, where laundry drying outside during winter is permeated by smoke odour.

More significantly, there is the rational medical evidence presented by Professor Sotiris Vardoulakis and other credible sources warning of the health dangers posed by

smoke from wood heaters.

Quite simply, ACT residents deserve a better response than the government's new position.

How about the Canberra Liberals reverse their current unfeeling position on this issue (and perhaps abandon the few wood heater lobbyists who have driven that position)?

A unity ticket on this issue with the Greens could roll the smug Barr government with a sensible, well-developed position that rids Canberrans of the smoke hazard while providing an adequate compensation package for those transitioning to a cleaner heating option.

Is that too much to ask from those whose sole focus on heating, up to now at least, has apparently been on perpetually keeping warm the opposition benches in the Legislative Assembly?

All Canberrans deserve clean air.

The time for our politicians to understand this and act accordingly is long overdue.

**Ian Pearson, Barton**