

# Why it's time to ban wood heaters

## Wood heaters

More than two decades ago, Dr Melita Keywood of the CSIRO identified Launceston as the most polluted residential area in Australia, with wood heaters the primary source.

Canberra's Tuggeranong Valley ranked a close second for the same reason.

In response, the federal government spent millions on buyback and education programs in Launceston, while communities like Tuggeranong were largely overlooked.

Now, Launceston City Council is once again seeking public input on how to address the health impacts of wood heater pollution.

This alone demonstrates that buyback and education programs have failed to deliver a lasting solution.

If we are serious about protecting public health and the environment, the answer is clear: a phased ban on wood heaters in residential areas.

We no longer accept tobacco smoke in shared public spaces because of the harm it causes to others. Wood smoke is no different. It has no place in our suburbs.

**Darryl Johnston, Tuggeranong ACT**



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