
From: no2 woodsmoke
Sent: Wednesday, 6 May 2026 11:32 AM
To: Portfolio Committee 2
Subject: Response to Questions on Notice
Attachments: STATEMENT FOR SENATE COMMITTEE ON
POLLUTION RUSTY WOODWARD 17TH MAY 2013.pdf

Categories:

Hi,

During the hearing I was asked to provide some examples (Question on Notice) of feedback/contact/statements we had received from residents regarding the impact wood heater smoke has on their health and day to day activities. Please see links below and attachments.

Interview with Prof Geoffrey Morgan on Centre for Safe Air study showing more than 700 Australians die prematurely from wood heater smoke pollution – ABC Radio New England. 29 July 2025

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1103166528622838>

The deadly impact of wood heater smoke. Medical Journal of Australia Podcast with Professor Sotiris Vardoulakis, 11 March 2024.

<https://www.mja.com.au/podcast/220/4/mja-podcasts-2024-episode-8-deadly-impact-wood-heater-smoke-professor-sotiris>

Kind regards

Darryl Johnston

Clean Air Canberra

W: <https://cleanaircanberra.com/>

E:

**SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
INQUIRY INTO THE IMPACTS ON HEALTH
OF AIR QUALITY IN AUSTRALIA.**

**STATEMENT BY
RUSTY WOODWARD
TUGGERANONG COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

17 May 2013

My name is Rusty Woodward. I am 74 years old and suffer from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, diagnosed 7 years ago. I moved to Canberra from Nowra 5 years ago, and have lived in the Tuggeranong Valley since that time. I am on oxygen for approximately 17 hours a day.

During the summer months I am able to manage my condition and participate in both social and volunteering activities and drop my oxygen usage to 14-16 hours a day. I am affected by pollution caused by burning off, but can cope as long as prior advice is given as to when and where this is to take place. I realise this is an essential part of bush fire management, therefore during those periods I stay home with all windows closed and do not venture outside.

Winter presents a whole new scenario once people start their wood fires. There are a number of houses in close proximity to me who have wood fires, and in my opinion do not burn the correct fuel, as they produce copious amounts of smoke almost all day.

Even using my oxygen, this affects my breathing to a debilitating level, which restricts my ability to perform a myriad of simple tasks such as washing up, bed-making, cooking, cleaning etc. Being something of a fresh air freak, I like windows open in the house. If I do inadvertently leave the windows open, I wake up unable to breathe and a house smelling of wood smoke. I always use oxygen at night in conjunction with a CPAP machine, but this does not prevent absorption of the particulate matter carried in the air.

Once the wood fires are started up, in order to limit the time I spend outside in the supposedly "fresh air", I order my groceries on line, have a hairdresser attend my house, only watch my grandsons play soccer if I can remain in the car. I restrict excursions in the evening when the effect on my breathing is exacerbated.

My life is virtually on hold during the wood fire season and for someone like me who believes in staying involved, it is frustrating to be incapacitated by something which could be better controlled.

ENDS