



Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef,
Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts

Our Ref: CTS: 11701/19
Your Ref A439818

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30 MAY 2019

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 1 May 2019 enclosing Petition No. 3029-18 that requests the House to add an extra amendment to the *Clean Air Act 1963* to eliminate any smoke and fume pollution emitting from any residential premises with a land block size of less than 800 square metres.

While Queensland's air quality is generally very good, seasonal wood heater emissions can be of concern to residents, with wood smoke consisting of particulate matter and other air pollutants, which when inhaled can have negative impacts.

The *Clean Air Act 1963* was repealed in 1994 and the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act) is the primary legislation relevant to environmental protection in Queensland. Under the EP Act, it is unlawful to cause a smoke nuisance for neighbours with local governments responsible for regulating general nuisance emissions, including smoke.

The Department of Environment and Science does not control smoke or its source in domestic premises, with local government responsible for decisions regarding how to address nuisance complaints from domestic wood heaters. This applies equally to domestic garden fire pits.

Much can be done to alleviate the impacts of smoke emissions through correct installation, use and maintenance of wood heaters, including correct fuel use. For example, the Brisbane City Council has a guide covering these issues. These issues are at the discretion of local governments so that councils can decide the arrangements best suited to their particular locality and circumstances.

I would be pleased if you would arrange for the tabling of this letter in response to the Petition in accordance with Standing Order 31.

I trust this information has been of assistance to the Petitioners.

Yours sincerely

Leeanne Enoch MP
**Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef,
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