



# MEDIA STATEMENT

## Draft Wood Heater Legislation

The Tuggeranong Community Council welcomes any new initiatives aimed at reducing air pollution in the Tuggeranong Valley and Canberra generally.

I will ask the Council's Environment Sub-committee to review the draft legislation (*Environment and Construction Occupations Legislation, Wood Heaters, Amendment Bill*) announced today by the ACT Greens and provide a response on behalf of the Council.

From my initial reading of the draft legislation it is NOT about banning wood heaters or letting people freeze in Canberra.

Under this draft legislation people can continue to heat their homes with wood and will be encouraged to transfer to new wood heaters that will be cheaper to operate by using less wood and better for the environment and our health by creating less pollution.

This proposed legislation could also provide a boon for the wood heating industry in Canberra through the sale of many new cleaner and more efficient wood heaters.

Domestic wood smoke pollution is a significant environmental health issue in Canberra and especially the Tuggeranong Valley.

This fact is supported by the ACT Government's latest wood heater education and advertising campaign which warns; *"Smoke from domestic wood heaters is the largest source of air pollution in Canberra. Wood smoke pollution is an environmental issue and is linked to a number of serious health conditions."*

I hope this draft legislation will be supported by our politicians, the community and the wood heating industry and will lead to a substantial reduction in winter wood smoke pollution in our neighbourhoods.

For further information contact:

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