

Letter to the Editor.
29/11/2008

Protection for Whom?

When the Environment Protection Authority came into effect on July 1 this year, chairman John Ramsey was quoted as saying, "I think it's going to be important in my role, as much as everyone else's, to actually get out and talk to the community..." (Examiner June 19).

So, without community consultation, it was agreed by the EPA on the 7th of October the Chair would write to the Minister for Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts recommending that a pilot monitoring proposal be implemented next year for particle levels from planned burning.

Last burn season was the worst on record under the draft Guidelines for Smoke Management and yet our monitoring stations supposedly indicated only one exceedence of the national standards while we were choking.

The most sophisticated monitoring equipment in the world will not protect our lungs one bit while we are deliberately forced to inhale stinking forestry smoke.

If as John Ramsey says, and the EPA did get out and talk to the community they would know it is a community expectation that smoke from planned burning be stopped at the source; not just monitored.

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