

Thu, **24 Jul 2008** 13:04:55 +1000 (EST)

Please find attached an Email from the Hon Will Hodgman MP.

<<Stott-forestry burn-offs.doc>>

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#### **Email to Clive M. Stott**

Dear Mr Stott

Thank you for your letter of **21 April** regarding forestry smoke in the Tamar Valley. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The Liberals agree that urgent action is needed to improve air quality in the Tamar Valley and, according to the CSIRO, the biggest threat to air pollution is from woodheaters.

The Federal Government-Launceston City Council sponsored woodheater buyback scheme in 2001 was successful in allowing 2000 older heaters to be replaced, but we fear that with the State Government's increase in electricity prices, Tasmanians will be reluctant to move to more costly forms of heating. The Launceston City Council estimates there are up to another 8000 woodheaters that could be removed.

The total removal of woodheaters would have an enormous benefit in relation to the quality of air in Launceston and we will continue to lobby both the Federal and State Government on this matter.

In relation to forestry burns, there is no doubt from recent information provided in Budget Estimates to my colleague, Sue Napier, that air quality in Launceston was affected during planned burn-offs earlier this year, and the Minister has stated she will explore

“better predictive modeling” for the introduction of a permit system – see Hansard, 25 June 2008 at [www.parliament.tas.gov.au](http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au). We will pursue this with the Minister.

Again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely

**Will Hodgman MP**  
**Leader of the Opposition**

cc. Sue Napier MP (Liberal Member for Bass)