

[Smoke in winter and bushfires](#)

Mon Oct 06, 2008 3:09 pm

Surely all of the smoke from wood heaters in major centres and smaller towns in winter, when the inversion layer is much, much lower, is much more harmful to our health?

And what of bushfires? They occur annually and the smoke is often much worse than the smoke from planned burns from the forest industry. Often they are deliberately lit by arsonists and people from the forest industry put their lives at risk to fight these fires.

What of the topsoil blown across the State, stripped from our Northerly slopes by strong winds due to large tracts of land cleared for agricultural purposes?

Why aim your site squarely at the forest industry, surely in the name of credibility all air pollution should be targeted?

You mention that there are other methods for controlling harvesting residue, but offer no alternatives in support of this statement.

The forest industry plays a valuable role in our society, and deserves a fairer portrayal than you provide.

Alex

[Re: Smoke in winter and bushfires](#)

Tue Oct 07, 2008 12:00 am

Alex ALL wood smoke is harmful to our health. The World Health Organisation says there is no safe level of fine particle pollution.

Yes wood heater smoke can be a health problem and this is successfully being tackled by heater buyback programs, smoke police, etc depending on where you live. Wood heater smoke did not put me in hospital, it has never been a concern to me personally. What has been of concern to me and many others is when forestry smoke raises the base level of smoke across Tasmania; people get sick and wood heaters are blamed for it. The exceedences of standards this year have been attributed to forestry smoke, Probably in other years too but nobody has bothered to look into what the cause was. It was natural and convenient to blame woodheaters. There is a lot of talk about inversions.....have you ever contacted the met bureau to find out just how often this phenomena occurs?

And what of bushfires? People certainly do a great job to contain them no question. The smoke from planned burns far outweighed bushfire smoke in the last few years.

Soil erosion? And let's not forget about the soil erosion from acres and acres of clear felled forestry land ?

This cleanairtas forum is part of the <http://www.cleanairtas.com> website. I invite you to have a look at the submission to the Forest Practices Authority and you will see proven alternatives have been put forward for removing forestry residue and to lessen fuel loads to prevent bushfires.

I have many friends in the forest industry but there is no need for planned burns; there are other alternatives available.