**Raw PM2.5 OUTDOOR AMBIENT AIR QUALITY in ug/m3**

**The WHO says: “Particulate pollution has health impacts even at very low concentrations – indeed no threshold has been identified below which no damage to health is observed.”**

[https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ambient-(outdoor)-air-quality-and-health](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ambient-%28outdoor%29-air-quality-and-health)

**There is no safe level of fine particulate pollution.\***

**Particulate matter is harmful to everybody even to so-called healthy people.**

**So why are we using these graded PM2.5 health categories extending beyond good air quality? Many different categories exist around the world but none echo the science. It is more confusing when some jurisdictions report in overly-complicated Air Quality Indexes (AQIs).**

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**The above categories come from EPA Vic. Australia.**

**Health Tasmania has set the GOOD category at 0-9 ug/m3**

<https://airrater.org/what-are-the-air-quality-categories/>

But it is still not good enough:

**It is time we caught up with PM2.5 science and adopted**

**BINARY HEATH CATEGORIES and comments using**

**1 hour rolling average metering and 10 minute real-time reporting for raw PM2.5 data.**

**Any episode above 5ug/m3 must be classed as an exceedance.**

**There should be no exemptions, eg planned burning, solid fuel heating.**

**Smoke is smoke as far as our health is concerned.**



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 **0 5ug/m3**

**In 2022 Outdoor Ambient Air Quality (AAQ) below 5ug/m3 is considered to be good air quality. ‘Particle mass, or weight in ug/m3’ will no doubt continue to be used until ‘**[**particle counts and nano particulates**](https://www.nature.com/articles/s12276-020-0405-1)**’ are further recognised in health studies.**

**\*At present 5ug/m3 can be considered a Practical Threshold for AAQ**

**However, there is no safe level of Particulate Matter.**

Contd….



PM2.5 Health-based categories V.5 – C. Stott 4.6.2022