

[Greens-Media] Tas Greens_Hospitalisation From Forestry Burns Outrage_K Booth MP

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- Previous message: [\[Greens-Media\] Tas Greens_Tasmanian Treasurer Must Answer Basslink Fibre Delay Questions_N McKim MP](#)
 - Next message: [\[Greens-Media\] Tas Greens_Levendale Community Won't Go Quietly_T Morris MP](#)
 - **Messages sorted by:** [\[date\]](#) [\[thread\]](#) [\[subject\]](#) [\[author\]](#)
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FORESTRY BURNS SMOKE RESULTS IN HOSPITALISATION

Despite Moving Home To Find Clean Air

Tasmanian Greens MP Kim Booth

Greens Shadow Private Forestry spokesperson

Wednesday, 7 May 2008

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www.tas.greens.org.au

The Tasmanian Greens today described as an "unacceptable infringement on public health" the impacts caused by forestry burn-off smoke which has resulted a Northern Tasmanian man having to be hospitalised, despite already having moved home once in an attempt to find a smoke pollution-free area in which to rebuild his life.

Greens Shadow Private Forestry spokesperson and Member for Bass, Kim Booth MP, said that the situation facing Mr Clive Stott, as reported in today's print press, is a horrific example of how entrenched the Lennon government has allowed the situation to have become, for forestry interests to be prioritised over the community's interests to the extent that people can be driven from their homes and hospitalised, and no action is taken.

"It is an unacceptable infringement on public health standards for anyone to need to seek hospitalisation due to the out-dated and polluting practice of forestry burn-offs," Mr Booth said.

"The reported experience of Mr Stott is a shocking indictment on the forestry industry, especially the private forests industry who appear to have been responsible for the recent burn offs in Northern Tasmania, as well as an indictment upon the Lennon government who has turned a blind eye to community complaints for far too long."

"It is outrageous that Mr Stott first had to move from his home in the north east due to unacceptable health impacts suffered thanks to the industry's belligerent adherence to its burns policy there, let alone the fact that his perceived smoke-free haven in Grindelwald was also turned into an asthma nightmare for him and required him to seek hospital help via the Emergency Department."

"When is this government going to say 'enough is enough', no industry has the right to put any member of the public's health at risk, and

especially not on an annual basis and this polluting practice must stop?"

"Where is the Health Minister, Lara Giddings, and the Environment Minister, Michelle O'Byrne, standing up to the forest industry and threatening them with legal action over the air pollution and public health danger that the industry's actions have caused?"

"No other industry would get away with its actions resulting in people's hospitalisation without some kind of action being undertaken - but under Lennon Labor the industry doesn't even feel it needs to respond to concerns raised."

"This government must change course dramatically and govern in the public's interests, not just that of forestry and big private forestry companies," Mr Booth concluded.

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