

From: CathyB@asthmatas.org.au>
To: cleanair@cleanairtas.com
Date: Thu, 12 Feb 2009 17:48:52
Subject: Response to letter

Dear Clive,

Thank you for your letter dated 29th of January 2009.

I am sorry if our statements have lead to some confusion and hopefully this letter will clarify the issues you raise.

Monitor:

The monitoring we refer to is monitoring that should be undertaken by organisations and individuals who burn-off as stated in the Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality) 2004 – not the general public.

Investigated/Stringent review

We have, in other media, asked that members of the public contact the Asthma Foundation regarding any concerns of elevated levels of smoke in their area. We intend to pass this information on to the Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment and request they investigate it as required in the Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality) 2004.

Evidence-based practice

I am unsure of what explanation you require, however, by putting it another way it may clarify the meaning to you:

We believe that any burn-offs, if they must occur, should be conducted in a manner, informed by the best available scientific opinion, that will minimise the effect of smoke on the population as stated in the Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality) 2004.

Environmental Protection Policy (Air Quality) 1994

My apologies. This was a mistake on our part. We intended to mention the Environmental Management and Pollution Control **Act** 1994. Instead, we conflated the Act and the Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality) 2004.

The reason we intended to refer to the Act, rather than the Environmental Protection Policy (Air Quality) 2004, was that the Act is what gives the 2004 policy the power to be enforced.

Finally

Concerning your comments 'the Asthma Foundation of Tasmania has not taken up the challenge to lobby to have planned burning stopped,' we do not agree with your claim.

We have always had a policy to ensure the impacts of all burns in Tasmania are minimised on those with respiratory illness and will continue to work to see this outcome achieved.

Sincerely,

Cathy

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