



Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef,
Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts

Your Ref: A365565
Our Ref: CTS 27465/18

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

Thank you for your letter of 18 September 2018 enclosing Petition No. 2958-18 that requests the House to ban the use of all combustion stoves and heaters, all garden fire pits and heating implements in cities throughout Queensland.

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) does not control smoke or its source in domestic premises. A local government decides how domestic heaters can be installed, controlled, monitored and on actions required to address any nuisance complaints. This applies equally to domestic garden fire pits.

DES controls non-domestic environmental emissions by licensing of 'Environmentally Relevant Activities' under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act). Environmental issues arising from domestic premises are usually controlled by the relevant local government.

While Queensland's air quality in general is very good, seasonal wood heater emissions can be of concern to residents. Wood smoke consists of particulate matter and other air pollutants, which when inhaled can have negative impacts. The EP Act and the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008 specify that general nuisance emissions, including smoke, are regulated by local governments. It is unlawful to cause a smoke nuisance for neighbours under the EP Act in Queensland.

Much can be done to alleviate the impacts of smoke emissions through correct installation, use and maintenance of wood heaters, including correct fuel use. The Brisbane City Council for example has a guide covering these issues. A local government may also investigate initiating local laws to restrict the use of wood heaters if it wanted to do so. These issues are left to the discretion of local government so that councils can arrive at arrangements best suited to their particular locality and circumstances.

I would be pleased if you would arrange for the tabling of this letter in response to the Petition in accordance with Standing Order 31.

I trust this information has been of assistance to the Petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Leeanne Enoch', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Leeanne Enoch MP
**Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef,
Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts**