



Minister for the Environment and Tourism
Minister for Science and Innovation

Our reference: CTS 03711/25

20 MAR 2025

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

Neil

Thank you for your email of 20 February 2025 enclosing Parliamentary Petition No. 4185-24 requesting the House ban wood and coal burning fires and stoves in Queensland, primarily due to the impacts of smoke on the environment and the community.

Nuisance from wood heater smoke falls within the responsibilities of local governments. Local governments are responsible for deciding how domestic wood heaters are installed, controlled, monitored and the actions required to address any nuisance complaints. This applies equally to nuisance related to domestic coal fires and stoves.

The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act) includes provisions relating to environmental nuisance. The EP Act enables local governments to use provisions relating to matters that fall within their jurisdiction to respond to community concerns on nuisance. Local governments can take action against people or organisations who are causing environmental nuisance. This action includes investigating complaints and undertaking enforcement action, such as issuing fines or taking offenders to court.

The Queensland Government provides guidance materials to support local governments to administer their powers under the EP Act and to inform members of the public of their responsibilities regarding causing nuisance. An overview of these materials and options can be found on the Queensland Government website at <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/management/pollution-management/reporting-environmental-nuisance>.

Local governments may take different approaches to how they implement the EP Act nuisance provisions having regard to the needs of their local communities. Members of the public should contact the Ombudsman if they have concerns about how their local government is applying nuisance provisions related to wood or coal burning fires and stoves.

While it is acknowledged that for some residents local air quality can be of concern, particularly in highly urbanised areas, Queensland's air quality is generally very good. The Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation monitors air quality via monitoring stations throughout Queensland and provides information on health actions in response to this data. Information on Queensland's air quality monitoring and health reporting system is updated regularly and can be found at <https://apps.des.qld.gov.au/air-quality/>.

I trust that this information will be of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Powell MP
Minister for the Environment and Tourism
Minister for Science and Innovation