

Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation

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Government

Our Ref: CTS 26629/25

8 January 2026

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your email of 15 December 2025 regarding Parliamentary Petition No. 4282-25 concerning banning the use of wood heaters and fire pits in all residential areas.

I acknowledge the concerns raised by the petitioners regarding air quality and its potential impact on public health, particularly for vulnerable groups. The health and wellbeing of Queensland residents is of utmost importance, and I appreciate the petitioners bringing this issue to the House's attention.

It is however essential to balance these concerns with the needs and preferences of all Queenslanders. Wood heaters and fire pits provide comfort and warmth for many households, especially during colder months, and banning them entirely could disproportionately affect those who rely on them as an affordable heating option.

There are several measures in place to regulate emissions to reduce the impacts of smoke in Queensland. The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* contains provisions for environmental nuisance which make it unlawful to cause a smoke nuisance to neighbours. Under the Environmental Protection Regulation 2019, it is the responsibility of local governments to administer and enforce these nuisance provisions.

Information on reporting an environmental nuisance, including smoke, can be found on the Queensland Government's website at <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/management/pollution-management/environmental-nuisance/reporting-environmental-nuisance>.

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