

## Environmental Health Referral Response - Solid Fuel Heaters

<b>Application Number:</b>	DA2023/0690
<b>Proposed Development:</b>	Demolition works and construction of a dwelling house and secondary dwelling, swimming pool, carport, inclinor and boatshed
<b>Date:</b>	21/06/2023
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Grace Facer
<b>Land to be developed (Address):</b>	Lot 59 DP 13760 , 252 Hudson Parade CLAREVILLE NSW 2107

### Reasons for referral

This application requires detailed consideration of solid fuel heaters. And as such, Council's Environmental Investigations officers are required to consider the likely impacts.

### Officer comments

#### General Comments

The applicant proposes to install a solid fuel heater as part of building development to a dwelling. The applicant has submitted a Section 68 application as part of the DA . This will not be needed as the DA can assess appropriately. The flue discharge point has been designed to be 6m distance to the adjoining site building and also is "up slope" from the adjoining dwelling. Council does not prohibit solid fuel heaters in residential areas despite known risks to health.

Asthma Australia -Last updated on 09/06/2023

Asthma Australia is encouraging people across the country to make the switch away from wood heaters and help clean up our winter air.

New data analysis reveals that most people who report regularly using a wood heater may not *need* to burn it as they also report using other forms of heating regularly.

**Smoke pollution from domestic wood heaters is one of the largest sources of air pollution during winter months in many areas. It is directly linked to increased asthma symptoms, hospitalisations, and premature deaths.**

New analysis from Asthma Australia's Homes, Health and Asthma survey has found that, among people who use heating regularly during winter months, 32% use more than one type of heating. Among people who regularly use a wood heater, 71% also regularly use another type of heating, with 50% regularly using an efficient form of heating like reverse cycle or central air conditioning.

"Asthma Australia encourages people who can make that choice not to use unhealthy wood heaters this winter," CEO of Asthma Australia Michele Goldman said. "Wood heaters are an inefficient form of home heating that causes air pollution and anyone who has an efficient alternative form of heating available, should move away from wood heating. **Tiny smoke particles are breathed in deep into our airways, which is not only problematic for asthma and other respiratory conditions but causes problems when these fine particulates enter the bloodstream.**

“We get many complaints from people in the community who are completely frustrated by smoke produced by their neighbours’ wood heaters. They feel helpless to escape the smoke, which triggers their asthma and affects their lives. In fact, a nationally representative survey by Asthma Australia found less than a third of people are able to protect themselves from woodfire heater smoke when it’s present.”

Looking across the country, wood heaters are most popular in TAS (30%) and ACT (15%).

**Asthma Australia wants to see wood heaters phased out in residential areas and is calling on all levels of governments** to tackle this issue, with the majority of the community agreeing wood heaters should not be allowed in urban and built-up areas and supporting a phase out.

Therefore Environmental Health would have to support the proposal with conditions,

The proposal is therefore supported.

Note: Should you have any concerns with the referral comments above, please discuss these with the Responsible Officer.

#### **Recommended Environmental Investigations Conditions:**

### **CONDITIONS WHICH MUST BE COMPLIED WITH PRIOR TO THE ISSUE OF THE OCCUPATION CERTIFICATE**

#### **Installation and certification of solid/fuel burning heater**

The solid fuel heater must be certified to comply with Australian Standards 4012 and 4013.

Provide to the Principal Certifier certification that the solid fuel heater has been installed by an appropriately experienced and qualified person, in accordance with the relevant provisions of AS2918 – Domestic Solid Fuel Burning Appliances – Installation.

Reason: To ensure the installation is completed in a legislatively compliant manner.

### **ON-GOING CONDITIONS THAT MUST BE COMPLIED WITH AT ALL TIMES**

#### **Maintenance of solid fuel heaters**

The owner/occupier shall ensure servicing of the heater is maintained according to the manufacturer’s specifications.

Reason: To ensure that works do not interfere with reasonable amenity expectations of residents and the community.

#### **Operation of solid fuel burning heaters**

The owner/operator must take all practicable measures to prevent the likelihood of causing smoke and/or odour nuisances. Such measures must include:

- Using dry seasoned hardwood
- Storing wood in a dry well-ventilated place
- Having a hot and well oxygenated fire
- Ensuring that the chimney flue is clean

- Checking the chimney at different stages of the fire to see if there is any smoke
- Maintenance according to the manufacturer's specifications

Reason: To ensure that works do not interfere with reasonable amenity expectations of residents and the community.