

Motion for submission to the MAV State Council June 2022

| |
|--|
| Title |
| Woodfires in Built Up Areas |
| Motion |
| That the MAV advocate to the State Government for stronger guidelines around the installation of new wood heaters in built up metropolitan areas through the planning process including the ability to not allow them. |
| Rationale for Motion |
| <p>The impacts of smoke and other emissions from wood heaters in urban areas is well established. (See: https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/environmental-information/air-quality/smoke-from-wood-heaters/wood-smoke-pollution). There is a higher incidence of respiratory illness in inner urban areas and smoke from wood heaters contributes to that. These impacts have been recognised by the State Government with funding since 2020 to subsidise households switching from wood heaters to other, cleaner forms of heating. (See: https://www.heatingupgrades.vic.gov.au/) However there is no provision guiding the installation of new wood heaters through the Planning Permit Application process. EPA guidelines and the application of Local Laws provide no guidance through the planning process. A Council faced with an application in a built-up area for a new wood heater has no tool with which to refuse that application despite the evidence of health impacts on surrounding residences, its impacts on human health . Growing community awareness of air pollution and a desire for reduction in pollutants such as those from wood heaters, would support restrictions through the planning process on installing new wood heaters.</p> |
| MAV Strategy theme |
| 2. Healthy, diverse and thriving communities |