

## Carol Davies

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**From:** msharpe3@une.edu.au  
**Sent:** Monday, 12 April 2010 9:37 PM  
**To:** Council

Re: Woodsmoke and house heating

For some people woodsmoke is not a problem, and for them it is sometimes hard to accept that for some others, it is a major problem.

I have done linguistic research over the years in remote Aboriginal communities, and in a remote area in the Philippines where most cooking and heating is done with wood, even though for some there is an option of an electric stove. It is blatantly obvious that woodsmoke contributes to respiratory problems in many Aboriginal people.

I am not badly affected by woodsmoke. However while I was living in Soudan Heights in Armidale, above the fog/smog line, I had asthmatic problems only in the grass pollen season in spring. Now I live in Speare Avenue, and need to use asthma medicine every couple of days throughout the year. With a senior health card this is only a minor inconvenience and expense to me each year, but as these medications are subsidised, the Government subsidises my medication to the tune of some \$130 each year.

This is a cost not always taken into account in assessing heating systems.

For many others woodsmoke creates a much larger health problem than it does for me. According to legislation, the Council 'must take into account the protection of the environment and of public health.' Seeing there is such a problem, I would consider that the installation of wood heating in new housing is contra-indicated, and that every effort should be made to reduce emissions from existing woodheating systems, by systems that reduce small particle emission and by educating owners of existing systems in the efficient use of their heating systems.

I understand that the geography of Armidale contributes to the problem.

This is clearly a bigger problem for Armidale than for some other places, and this is a factor which should be taken into account in any legislation.

In a population the size of Armidale's, this hidden cost of wood heating has to add up to a considerable amount.

Sincerely

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