

## Submission – ADC re - POL134-Regulatory.

### General comment.

*My submission is in two parts.*

*Firstly general, and secondly specifically in relation to an addition to procedures as outlined within the draft.*

My contributions are simple.

I support the differing requirements for wood fire heaters in homes built under Basix and for those that were previously built. I also support community education, reductions in wood smoke pollution and sustainable harvesting of natural resources.

Like other contributors throughout the consultative process,

- I support the use of compassionate language and compassionate implementation of any punitive actions used to enforce pollution abatement measures.

Promotional information might readily include

- Historical positive progress at reducing health risks (community working together) as well as need for greater community effort (ongoing cooperation) in reducing ongoing incidence of detrimental exposure.
- Acknowledgement of the need for warmth in winter in Armidale and surrounds is also an affirming statement.
- Accurate and practical educational information about various alternate heating systems could also be provided. If so, it should include down sides as well, such as the health impacts of unventilated gas.

I question the need, in the first instance through general information provision to

- ‘heavily’ promote consequences such as fines (when very little is expected to come of it.)

*(I understand the principles of the ‘big stick’ approach but am also aware that this is generally only useful where ‘subordinates’ are receptive and able to respond. Community citizens are not subordinates; they are community citizens who may not always be able to respond in a practical manner and are more likely to respond with encouragement)*

Direct promotion of consequences might be delayed until Level 1 or 2 even level 2 or 3 intervention/s occur, or be in fine print or otherwise subtle in presentation.

- They should be presented alongside information as ‘prepared’ providing information for support and advice.

Additionally and specifically.

Some members of our community including the aged, infirmed, physically disabled, persons with presenting mental health conditions or who otherwise are having practical difficulties may be identified as non compliant. As such I believe we should be practically aware of these factors and consider a policy step that formally applies this understanding.

- I propose the confirmation/establishment of a protocol with relevant welfare agencies such as the Office (former Dept) of Aged, Disability and Home Care, Salvation Army and St Vincent De Paul (&Lifeline services).
- It might include additional opportunities for such welfare agency support alongside the education methods/alternative practices, as proposed under Part 4- levels1& 2.
- This might include procedures for such agency participation in assessment of a 'polluters' 'liability/culpability' and specific 'needs' informing any further actions as might occur under Part 4- Level 3.

*If an effective protocol is established*

- I would then suggest that all communications under levels 1 & 2 contain relevant information in relation to the agencies supports as might be available under any protocol.
- Under level 3 interventions might I suggest that members of the above 'welfare agencies' (*and I suggest possibly more likely from Salvation Army or St Vincent de Paul*) might be asked to consider there own direct contact/engagement with the 'polluter/s', along with relevant council staff, and have ongoing involvement in any further interventions.(if appropriate)
- Under level 3 -These agencies, should be encouraged to participate not only in ongoing monitoring which might propose punitive action, but also in any other identified areas of related need that may assist with compliance/ pollution abatement for that residence.