

## Air Plan 13 Changes

With regards to the Air Plan changes that were enforced on 27<sup>th</sup> February with no notice or consolation.

Is the public expected to just accept and go by the new rules. It took a month for these changes to be made public by way of advertising on the radio and even longer in the local newspapers.

I ask, WHY DID IT TAKE SO LONG TO LET THE PUBLIC KNOW!!!!!!! I work in the Woodburner industry and I am talking with some very irate customers whose choices are being taken away from them. I keep getting hearing comments "They are Morons", "What are these idiots doing", "If I won Lotto, I would take them to court." They should all be shot at dawn".

I have not had one positive comment said about the regional council and its ideas to clean up the air quality in Rotorua.

I feel that the Regional Council is not taking into consideration how this will affect the ordinary person, whether they are on a benefit, elderly or a limited income. We hear how prices of food, power, rates etc have all gone up and that families are struggling. How are the changes that the council have implemented going to affect these families. They will only get poorer, sicker and be more of a burden on our government and our taxes.

The council is definitely giving the impression that they do not want fires. A woodburner is the most efficient form of heating which when used properly, ie serviced each year and dry firewood burned will result in a warm dry home in Rotorua in the winter. A woodburner depending on size will give off more than double of the heat output of a Gas Heater or a Heatpump. You only need to look at the specs and this will tell you. A woodburner is designed to heat a whole house but a heatpump or gas heater will only heat the room you are in. An example is a woodburner for a 150sq mtr house is recommended to have a 15KW fire. A heatpump will be approx 6 to 8KW and a gas heater will be 6-7KW. I know which I would sooner have in my house. That is a woodburner. It gives you over double the heat output for much less running cost.

With regards to the new regulations that were brought into effect last year on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2017, the Council has not given these changes enough time to be able to measure whether they have had a significant result in improving the air quality as they were brought in at the end of WINTER. Wouldn't it be more sensible to measure the results over this winter before making changes again.

We have the added ingredients in our Rotorua air quality that includes pollen especially from the pine trees as well as sulphur as well as all the smoking vehicles and carbon emissions from cars and trucks.

Here are some of the scenarios that customers have mentioned.

1/ A lady and her partner paid over 1 million dollars for a property on the edge of the city that was RURAL In 2010. It has a beautiful big feature open fireplace and now that the airshed has been changed and she is inside this area, she is no longer legally allowed to use her fire. She also has at least 10 years of firewood that has been growing on her own property. NOT HAPPY.

2/ A customer came in to buy a woodburner and had spent \$400 on firewood only to be told because he does not already have a fire -It was removed at "Point of Sale", he will have to apply for a resource consent and find another property removing a fire as an offset. NOT HAPPY.

3/ A customer has moved into the area from out of town and had the fire removed at "Point of Sale" in a 300sq mtr home. He moved into the house in January and was unaware of the rules in Rotorua and due to no advertising before implementation of the new rules has meant that he is unable to have a woodburner now that would efficiently heat his home. He does not want to have to get several heatpumps or gas heaters to be able to heat his home when 1 woodburner would do the same job. NOT HAPPY

4/ A Lady who does not want a heat pump or gas heater and wants a woodburner to warm her home and keep her children warm as they have bad respiratory issues and the doctor has recommend a warm dry home. She is very angry. NOT HAPPY

5/ A customer who has relatives who are able to get firewood for a woodburner at no cost to them. Because they do not have a woodburner already and it has been removed at point of sale over the summer, they are now not able to have a new woodburner. Due to the cost of the firewood this was going to make a huge difference to the family's finances over the winter. NOT HAPPY

6/ A couple who are building a new house. They have had a heatpump and gas fire before in previous houses and have found they did not heat the house enough and were inefficient. Unless they are able to find a another person removing a fire and pay the resource consent fee, they can't have one. NOT HAPPY

7/ A tenant of a property was offered a heat pump last year in August by their landlord, they thought this would be good so said yes. They had the heatpump installed and then a few months later the landlord removed the wetback fire and their first power bill was \$600 and were unable to pay it. If they paid it the family would not eat for several weeks. NOT HAPPY.

8/ As the owner of a house in the Rotorua Air Shed that we purchased on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 with the intention of putting in a woodburner to heat this home. Because the sale was not settled until the 28<sup>th</sup> March and we were unaware of the changes being implemented we are no longer able to put in a woodburner , which would have been doubly efficient in heating the property than the old gas heater at present. The property has 2 gas heaters and at least one of them is unflued and this emits gases into the air which will then flow into the bedrooms which is dangerous for anybody living in the house. NOT HAPPY.

I can see what will happen in the future and that is that people will then turn to buying a fire and installing it themselves without a building consent and taking the risk that the house will not burn down. The choices for the ordinary public are being taken away from them and who has the right to do this?????????

What information is being used to make these decisions? This information should be published to the community, so they are better able to understand why these decisions are being made.

Would it not be better to have a public forum or even better a referendum before enforcing any changes.

I would appreciate being advised on the outcome of the submissions and any further changes to the rules.

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