

Breathe Easy...Rural

Proposed rules – Home heating and on the farm

Southland residents
– these changes will
affect you. It's not too
late to have your say,
submissions close
3 November!

The Government has set National Environmental Standard for Air Quality (NES) to protect our health and wellbeing. Environment Southland is responsible for ensuring these standards are met in our region. We've been reviewing the *Regional Air Quality Plan for Southland*, and some new rules are being proposed.

We all have the right to breathe clean air and as a community we need to take the necessary steps to ensure this. The proposed rules address air quality issues associated with home heating, outdoor burning and some farm management practices in rural areas. Have your say and tell us what you think.

Fuels for Home Heating

There are proposed rules for what you can and can't burn for home heating. High sulphur coal is being phased out – you will have until 1 January 2015 to use any existing stock.

From **6 September 2014** you **CAN NO LONGER** burn:

- ✗ Chemically treated timber, such as fence posts and some building materials.
- ✗ Painted and varnished timber.
- ✗ Household rubbish and plastics.
- ✗ Waste oil.

From **1 January 2015** you **CAN ALSO NO LONGER** burn:

- ✗ Wet wood (moisture content greater than 25%) e.g. wood that has been drying for less than 9 months and/or stored incorrectly.
- ✗ Coal with a high sulphur content – talk to your coal supplier for advice.

From **1 January 2015** you **CAN** burn only:

- ✓ Dry wood – e.g. wood that's been drying for approximately 9–12 months and stored/stacked correctly.
- ✓ Low sulphur content coal – talk to your coal supplier for advice.

Not sure if you can burn it? Download a detailed list of prohibited fuels for home heating – www.BreatheEasySouthland.co.nz

From
6 September
2014

From
1 January
2015

Your website for
air quality information

BreatheEasySouthland.co.nz



environment
SOUTHLAND

Te Taiao Tonga

From
6 September
2014

Outdoor Burning

From **6 September 2014** you can burn only approved fuels or materials for outdoors.

RECYCLING

Baleage wrap and agrichemical containers can no longer be burned. For recycling options:

Recycling Agrichemical Containers

Phone: 0800 247 326
Website: www.agrecovery.co.nz

Recycling Baleage Wrap

Phone: 0508 338 240
Website: www.plasback.co.nz

What you CAN burn outdoors

- ✓ Vegetative matter
- ✓ Paper
- ✓ Cardboard
- ✓ Untreated wood

What you CAN'T burn outdoors

- ✗ Agricultural wrap
- ✗ Agrichemical plastic containers
- ✗ Other fuels or materials on the prohibited list

Note that burning must not occur within 100 metres upwind or 50 metres in any other direction of any residence that is not located on the property where the burning is occurring (unless written permission has been obtained).

To download a detailed list of prohibited fuels for outdoor burning visit www.BreatheEasySouthland.co.nz

Agrichemicals and Fertilisers

Agrichemicals must be prepared according to manufacturer's instructions and applied at the recommended concentration and application rates. Application must be undertaken so that agrichemicals do not spray or drift onto any adjoining property.

The discharge of fertiliser to air is a permitted activity, provided there is no fertiliser drift within 30 metres of a residential unit or over any property that is:

- organic (registered or certified)
- an orchard where there is fruit present.

Stubble and Offal Burning

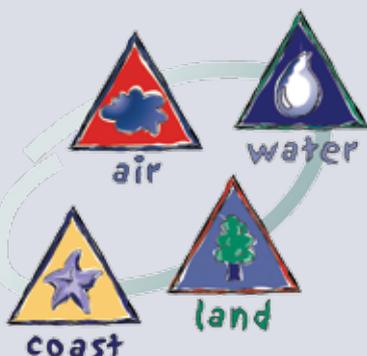
Stubble burning by crop farmers and the outdoor burning of animal carcasses and offal are permitted activities in rural areas, so long as certain conditions are met.

Conditions for burning stubble

Stubble burning must not occur within 300 metres upwind or 100 metres in any other direction, of any residential unit that is not located on the property where the burning occurs (unless written permission has been obtained from the occupier(s) of the residential unit).

Conditions for burning animal carcasses and offal

- Carcasses or offal must be derived from the same property on which the offal pit or "dead hole" is situated (unless the activity is carried out by a local authority or government agency in the exercise of their statutory powers)
- Burning must not occur within 100 metres of a dwelling, place of assembly, or property boundary
- There must not be any adverse effects on recorded historic heritage sites
- Burning can only comprise animal carcasses, vegetative matter, paper, cardboard or untreated wood.



Environmental effects beyond your property boundary

Discharges from agrichemicals fertilisers, stubble and offal burning must not result in adverse effects at or beyond your property boundary, including:

- objectionable deposition of particulate matter on any land or structure
- noxious or dangerous levels of airborne contaminants
- offensive or objectionable smoke or odour
- smoke or water vapour that reduces visibility on any road or in any aircraft flight path
- corrosion of any structure.

See the proposed *Regional Air Quality Plan 2014* for a more detailed description of permitted conditions, available from 6 September 2014 online – www.es.govt.nz.

It's not too late to have your say!

The proposed *Regional Air Quality Plan 2014* outlines proposed rules for home heating and outdoor burning, as well as agrichemical and fertiliser use. It's not too late to have your say – tell us your thoughts about the proposed rules.

Making a written submission is easy and there are several ways to do this, whether it's on an official submission form or not:

- Online: www.es.govt.nz
- Email: service@es.govt.nz
- Fax: 03 211 5252
- Mail: Private Bag 90116, Invercargill 9840
- Deliver: Cnr North Rd & Price St, Invercargill

All submissions will be carefully considered by Environment Southland.

TIPS FOR MAKING A SUBMISSION

- Provide examples relevant to the changes in the proposed *Regional Air Quality Plan 2014*.
- Focus on the positive or negative effects, e.g. environmental.
- Explain exactly what outcome you want – don't leave Environment Southland to guess.
- Write the submission in clear, simple everyday language.
- If you want to speak at a council hearing on your submission, please say so in your submission.
- Sign and date your written submission and provide your full name, address and phone/fax/email contact details (electronic submissions will not require a signature).

NOTE: Your submission will become part of a public record of Environment Southland documents. This means your name, address and contact details will be part of that record.

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