

Wesfarmers Limited  
Level 14, Brookfield Place Tower 2  
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Perth 6000,  
Western Australia  
Email: info@wesfarmers.com.au

Dear Westfarmers/Bunnings Management,

I wish to raise my serious concerns over the front of house displays and blatant promotion of wood heating in your Canberra stores. Despite it being pointed out to your company on more than one occasion, we can only conclude now that Bunnings chooses to ignore all the environmental health evidence and science that smoke from a wood heater is just as damaging to our health as tobacco smoke and bushfire smoke.

Many neighbourhoods in Canberra suffer high to extremely high levels of air pollution during the cooler months of the year due to smoke from domestic wood heaters. The ACT Government and many environmental health experts and community groups in Canberra are actively discouraging this form of heating.

The facts are;

- Burning wood for domestic heating is responsible for more than two thirds of Canberra's air pollution while cars are responsible for just 10%,
- Air pollution increases threefold in areas of Canberra during the cooler months of the year because of domestic wood burning,
- Smoke from wood heaters contains many of the same cancer-causing chemicals found in tobacco smoke,
- Those most impacted by wood burning are the young, whose lungs are still developing, the elderly and those with a pre-existing heart or lung condition, and,
- Burning wood for domestic heating also contributes to global warming.

The ACT Minister for the Environment released in November a strategy aimed at reducing the health and environmental impacts of smoke pollution, including smoke from domestic wood fires.

See: [https://www.act.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/1897859/Bushfire-smoke-and-air-quality-strategy-2021-2025.pdf](https://www.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/1897859/Bushfire-smoke-and-air-quality-strategy-2021-2025.pdf)

Many Canberra residents are imprisoned in their homes throughout the cooler months of the year because of the pollution from wood fires in their neighbourhood. If they venture outside, they may end up in hospital. See [How neighbouring wood heaters have made one Canberran's home almost unlivable | The Canberra Times | Canberra, ACT](#)

We hope in the future that Bunnings will develop a social conscience and show more concern for our health and the environment and refrain from actively promoting wood heating at its stores in Canberra.

Kind regards  
Name/address etc