

Breathe Easy...

Proposed rules – home heating & outdoor burning

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

What is a NES approved burner?

A NES approved burner is a home wood burner that meets the National Environmental Standards for emissions and thermal efficiency. See the Ministry for the Environment website for a list of approved burners: www.mfe.govt.nz/laws/standards/woodburners/authorised-woodburners.html

(Note: there are currently no NES approved multi-fuel or coal burners, only wood burners.)

The review of the *Regional Air Quality Plan for Southland* has reached an important milestone with the notification of some proposed rules on 6 September 2014.

The proposed rules update the previous air plan, which is being reviewed to reflect the community's health values, the region's air quality issues and the Government's health-inspired National Environmental Standards for Air Quality (NES).

Some of the proposed rules affect all of Southland, while others affect only the Invercargill and Gore airsheds.

Invercargill and Gore airsheds only

The proposed rules that affect the Invercargill and Gore airsheds address local air quality issues by focusing on what burners you can use for home heating and restrictions for outdoor burning in winter.

From
6 September
2014

Home heating – burners

From **6 September 2014** a NES approved burner is required when installing a new burner or replacing an existing burner or fireplace.

Open fires and non-approved burners/boilers are being phased out of use:

EFFECTIVE FROM	PROPOSED RULE
1 September 2015	The use of open fires is prohibited.
1 January 2016	The use of any non-approved burner/boiler installed before 1 January 2001 is prohibited.
1 January 2021	The use of any non-approved burner/boiler installed between 1 January 2001 and 1 September 2005 is prohibited.
1 January 2025	The use of any non-approved burner/boiler installed between 1 September 2005 and 1 January 2010 is prohibited.
1 January 2029	The use of any non-approved burner/boiler installed from 1 January 2010 is prohibited.

Outdoor burning – winter

From **1 May 2015** you will no longer be able to burn outdoors in the Invercargill and Gore airsheds during winter (1 May to 31 August). Leisure activities such as barbecues, braziers, hangi, fireworks etc are exempt from this rule.

From
1 May 2015



environment
SOUTHLAND

Te Taiao Tonga

Have your say!

The Proposed Regional Air Plan 2014 outlines proposed rules for home heating and outdoor burning, as well as agrichemical and fertiliser use (See *Breathe Easy...Rural*). However, it's not too late to have your say about the proposed rules; how they will affect you, what support you may need to make changes, or any other aspect of interest to you.

Making a written submission is easy. There are several ways to do this (whether 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 Road & Price St, Waikiwi, Invercargill

All submissions will be carefully considered. What you have to say is important to us and has the potential to influence the final outcome.

Submissions close 5.00pm, 3 November 2014

All of Southland

As Southlanders we need to take responsibility for what we burn. Proposed rules cover what you can burn for home heating and outdoor burning.

Fuels for home heating

FROM 6 SEPTEMBER – 31 DECEMBER 2014

YOU CAN BURN	YOU CAN'T BURN
All wood that's not chemically treated or coated	Chemically treated timber, such as fence posts and some building materials
All types of coal	Painted and varnished timber
	Household rubbish and plastics
	Waste oil

6 Sept
- 31 Dec
2014

FROM 1 JANUARY 2015

YOU CAN BURN	YOU CAN'T BURN
Dry wood – e.g. wood that's been drying for approximately 9-12 months and stored/stacked correctly	Wet wood – e.g. wood that has been drying for less than 9 months and/or stored incorrectly
Low sulphur content coal – talk to your coal supplier for advice	Coal with a high sulphur content – talk to your coal supplier for advice
	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

Outdoor burning

From **6 September 2014** the following proposed rules will apply:

YOU CAN BURN	YOU CAN'T BURN
Vegetation	Chemically treated timber, such as fence posts and some building materials
Paper	Painted and varnished timber
Cardboard	Household rubbish and plastics
Untreated wood	Waste oil

From
6 Sept
2014

**Your website for
air quality information**

BreatheEasySouthland.co.nz

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

Why propose new rules?

There are several reasons for proposing new rules but they all come back to the same goal: improving air quality for the health and wellbeing of Southlanders. At the end of the day, we all want to breathe clean air.

National air quality standards

- The Government has set the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality (NES) to provide a guaranteed level of health protection for all New Zealanders.
- Regional councils are legally required to take measures to meet the national standards. Environment Southland's air plan review is in response to this requirement.
- The NES have a minimum standard for the pollutant PM₁₀, which is highly concentrated in smoke. The standard is exceeded when more than 50 micrograms of PM₁₀ is measured as a 24-hour average.
- The NES allows for only one exceedance of the PM₁₀ standard a year. Invercargill usually has more than 10 exceedances each year and Gore less than 10, which is why they are gazetted airsheds.
- The NES has deadlines:
 - Invercargill has until 2016 to reduce to three exceedances or less a year; and until 2020 to reduce to one exceedance a year. By the end of this winter (31 August 2014) Invercargill had 13 exceedances.
 - Gore has until 2016 to reduce to one exceedance. By the end of this winter (31 August 2014) Gore had only one exceedance. This result would have to be maintained for five years to meet the NES.

How does PM₁₀ affect our health?

Breathing in PM₁₀ is harmful to human health. Healthy people experience mainly nuisance health effects but children, asthmatics and people with other respiratory problems can experience serious health problems. Increases in mortality and other health effects are associated with increases in the 24-hour average PM₁₀ concentrations.

Home fires leading cause of PM₁₀

By far the biggest contributor of PM₁₀ in the Invercargill and Gore airsheds is the smoke that comes out of chimneys.

An emission inventory undertaken in 2011 found that home fires/burners accounted for 92% of PM₁₀ emissions in Invercargill, and 96% in Gore. Industry, outdoor burning and motor vehicles had relatively little impact.

What is PM₁₀?

PM₁₀ is fine particulate matter smaller than 10 microns (10µm) in diameter. PM₁₀ is formed through the combustion of fuels (burning), atmospheric reactions and mechanical processes including crushing, grinding and abrasion.

Amendments to proposed rules

Just before advertising the proposed new rules the Council amended some of them by:

- Dropping the requirement for all properties under 2 ha to install a NES approved burner when putting in or replacing a burner. (Note, this rule still applies to the airsheds.) The rationale behind it was to stop other centres becoming polluted.
- Pushing out the date for prohibiting the burning of high sulphur coal to 1 January 2015. This gives coal users time to use up their existing supplies.

Note, the rules may change further following the consultation/submission process (6 September – 3 November). Please see page 2 of this brochure for details on having your say.

Working together for change

It's important to balance the need for clean air with affordable heating and staying warm. We understand that making changes is not always easy. While thinking about heating options for your home, be sure to keep warm so you don't replace one health risk (air pollution) with another (cold conditions).

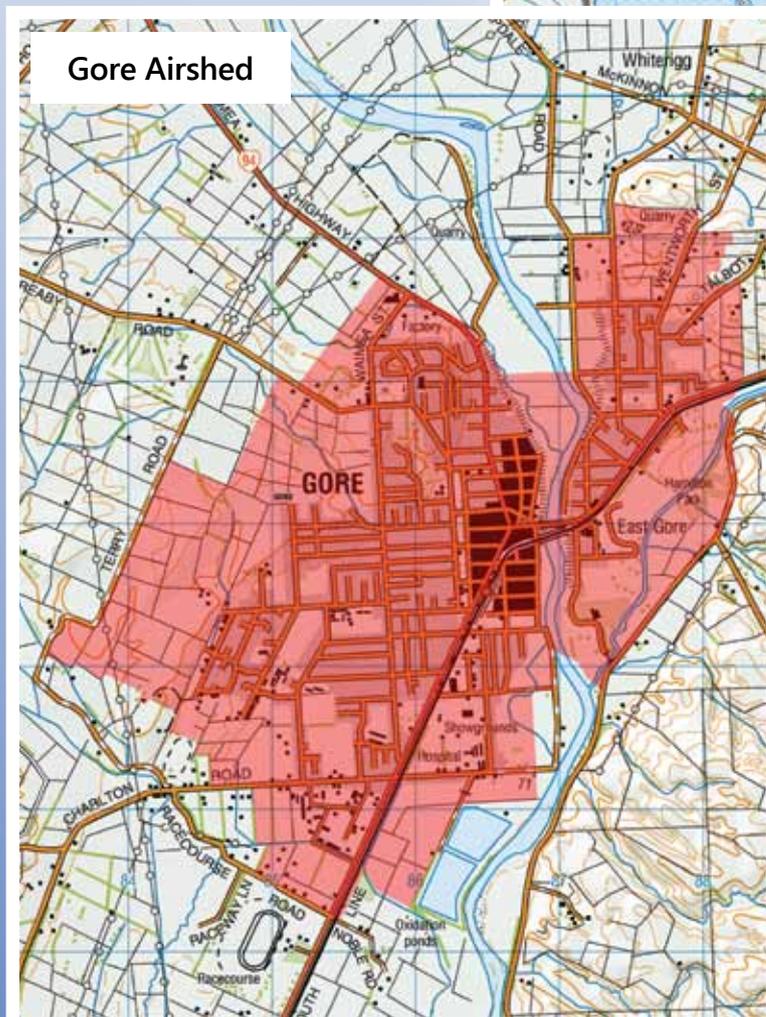
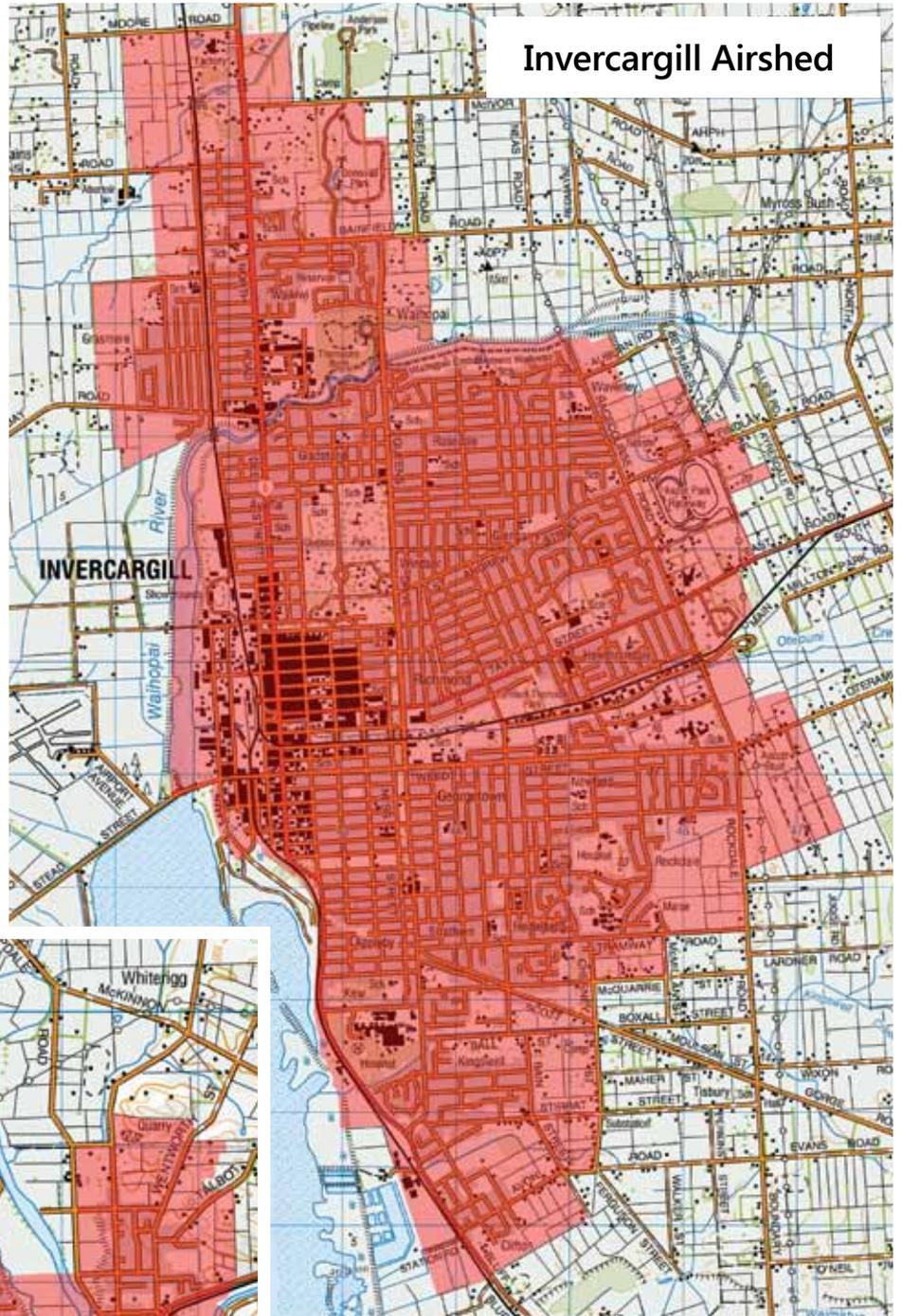
Environment Southland has educational material and is currently working with other organisations and councils to find ways to help you make changes to the way you heat your home. We'll keep you updated online at www.BreatheEasySouthland.co.nz



What is an airshed?

The NES defines an airshed as an 'air quality management area'. Airsheds have set standards for monitoring and reporting air quality, plus resource consent requirements.

These maps outline each Southland airshed and are also available online at www.BreatheEasySouthland.co.nz



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