

**First Name**

Jane

**Last Name**

Greacen

**What organisation are you from?**

Dr Jane's Place, Cunninghame Arm Medical Centre

**What do you think are the best value actions listed in the statement that are likely to help improve future air quality?**

They are all very important. In particular:

- Using a statewide emissions inventory to support industry and community decision-making, and prioritise industries, activities and sectors for addressing air quality issues.
- Renewing and expanding our air quality monitoring network — such as increasing the number of monitoring stations across Victoria, increasing the amount of mobile equipment to better assess air pollution from events such as industrial accidents, planned burns and bushfires, increasing monitoring of emissions at pollution hotspots such as major roads and industrial areas, and/or strengthening requirements for industries to monitor and report their emissions.
- Making better use of air quality information available through sources like satellite data and air quality modelling systems.
- Increasing the amount and accuracy of air quality information available in a range of formats like websites, social media and smart phone alerts, in real time.
- Increasing the ability for local communities to receive rapid, clear and relevant information on air quality when there is an emergency event.
- Making sure we can rapidly respond to emerging pollution risks identified through increased monitoring, and advances in medical, scientific and technical knowledge.
- Increasing the government's own use of clean technologies and emission reduction practices.
- Increasing national advocacy, recognising the importance of cost-effective and consistent national approaches to reducing air pollution.

All are excellent approaches and together would make a real difference to current and future health of the environment and therefore of the population.

**How would you build on or vary these actions?**

The value of planned burns is in question. The risks and harm from planned burns is serious, for human health and environment health. It seems that monitoring the impact of these burns is minimal, and that there is blind adherence to the belief that these will reduce the risk and impact of bush fires. There is research that supports both views, however a proper risk/benefit analysis is hard to find. It is difficult to find data or even any research being undertaken to review the very real deleterious impact on people's health. Thus it is most concerning to see the statement in the Introduction: "We will need to continue to undertake planned burns, to mitigate against bushfires. And as our climate grows warmer and drier, the risks of bushfires and dust storms occurring will increase".

**Do you have any suggestions for further actions?**

Review the value and effectiveness of planned burns. Monitor the pollution and impact on health of the population exposed to these burns. Review the short and long term impact of planned burns. Be sure that planned burns are not just systematically changing our countryside and contributing to the accelerating extinctions of animal and plant life in our state. Review all international data and research on control and reduction of impact of bush fires. Include impact of farming and aerial spraying to control pests and weeds.

**Are there any air quality actions you believe should be avoided? Why?**

Avoid further planned burns until absolutely certain that they are not causing more harm than they prevent.

**Are there particular areas of air quality (either pollution sources or geographic regions) you think the government should target for improvement? Why?**

Increase monitoring in East Gippsland. There is a high rate of respiratory infection, asthma and hay fever in this region.

**Are you able to provide any data or information that will help government assess the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of air quality management actions?**

No.

**Do you have other suggestions on how to secure a clean air future?**

Thank you for running this program. The proposed actions are so important, and have been ignored for such a long time.