

**First Name**

Deb

**Last Name**

Foskey

**What organisation are you from?**

Network for a Sustainable East Gippsland

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

Involving communities in discussions about and devising measures to reduce air pollution.

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

Fire is the biggest source of air pollution in rural districts where traffic is minimal and there is no mining or other polluting industry. The statement assumes all fire is 'wildfire'. However the experience of people living in East Gippsland is that deliberate fires such as fuel reduction burns and coupe burns are just as much a source of smoke as wildfire.

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

Reassess the usefulness of so-called fuel reduction burns - work with communities to devise measures to protect them from potential wildfire. This may involve some fuel reduction by burning by negotiation with communities and authorities but can include a number of other measures such as wood collection buffer zones. remote area burning has not been shown to increase the safety of communities.

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

Fuel reduction and coupe burns - see above. These particularly affect rural communities but have potential to impact on areas with more population as is evidenced in Yarra ranges at present.

**Are you able to provide any data or information that will help government assess the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of air quality management actions?****Do you have other suggestions on how to secure a clean air future?**

There is no air quality monitoring in our area - at least to our knowledge - so some individuals are purchasing their own air quality monitors. To have these available at neighbourhood houses and community centres would allow communities to monitor their air quality more accurately.