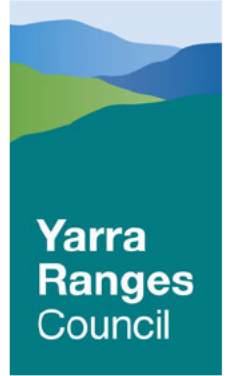


23 April 2021

The Committee Manager,  
Environment and Planning Committee  
**Parliament House, Spring Street  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002**

Yarra Ranges Council  
PO Box 105  
Lilydale Vic 3140  
Call 1300 368 333  
Fax 03 9735 4249  
mail@yarraranges.vic.gu  
www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au



Inquiry into health impacts of air pollution in Victoria  
Submission 102

Dear Mr Baker,

Yarra Ranges Council (Council) is appreciative of the opportunity to respond to the Inquiry into Air Pollution in Victoria. As the largest municipality in the Melbourne region (geographically) containing a mix of urban and rural communities, Council and supporting external agencies such as Environmental Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) have identified air pollution as a risk to our residents, businesses and the significant number of tourists who visit Yarra Ranges each year.

A summary of considerations specific to Yarra Ranges regarding pollution impacts is listed below:

- Council does not currently have significant air pollution related data however the data that is available via Environment Protection Authority (EPA) shows that the most common pollutant is smoke containing PM2.5 which can be linked to several negative health impacts
- The unique topography, climate and biodiversity of the Yarra Ranges region sees bushfires, bushfire hazard reduction, wood burners and agricultural activities as key contributing factors to smoke within the region
- Agricultural businesses within the region including wineries and other crop growers have reported heavy impacts of smoke to their business

Council has identified a number of proposed initiatives that could assist in the monitoring and management of air pollution in the region;

- A Community Led Action Plan for Smoke is being developed in partnership with EPA in response to the number of resident concerns regarding ongoing smoke issues within the region,
- Deployment of a community network of 4-6 (purple air) sensors to provide real time air pollution data of smoke and better understanding of the intensity and period of when local smoke impacts occur,
- Yarra Ranges is a member of the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) which delivers programs and targeted advocacy to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change,
- Seasonal awareness reminder campaigns throughout the municipality,
- Advocacy to governments for support of cleaner energy options or air purifiers in high impact areas and,
- Consideration of reviewed private land burning practices on declared CFA hazard reduction days.

Our proposed above initiatives would require the support from State Government. Yarra Ranges is supportive of the Inquiry and Air Pollution in Victoria and we appreciate the opportunity to provide input into this inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Balaban  
Executive Officer Safer Communities