

Air Quality Bylaw Submission - Ōrākei Local Board

Regulation of the use of indoor domestic fires in Auckland is an important component in controlling the quality of our air in an increasingly densely populated, urban environment. The Ōrākei Local Board acknowledges Council's responsibility in ensuring that the national Air Quality Standards set by central government are met. The former Regional Plan which dealt with these issues by way of regulation has now been replaced by the Unitary Plan. No rules relating to the use of domestic fires are contained within the Unitary Plan leaving a regulatory gap that the OLB accepts needs addressing to ensure the national standards for air quality are met within the Ward.

The OLB Ward has an aging population, many of whom live in older style properties and continue to use and rely on open domestic fires. It is important that in the event of a civil emergency or natural disaster that these residents are able to utilise the open fire as a means to heat water or food, and that no requirement in the regulation be sought that would have the effect of preventing this.

The OLB therefore supports:

1. The new Air Quality Bylaw re-establishing former regional rules previously prescribed under the former Regional Plan: Air, Land and Water 2010 acknowledging its need to fill the regulatory gap left by its expiration upon the implementation of the Unitary Plan.
2. maintaining the same rules, without alteration, from the former Regional Plan to the new Air Quality Bylaw, specifically the:
 - a. Discharge rule
 - b. Prohibited fuels
 - c. National wood burner standards
 - d. Use of indoor fires in urban areas
 - e. Use of indoor fires in rural areas
 - f. New gas or liquid burners
3. When defining Auckland's urban zone for the purposes of the By Law the urban zones be as set out in Auckland's Unitary Plan (as per Option B3 in the consultation material).
4. The By law contain no provision requiring homeowners to replace non-compliant domestic fires upon sale of their property, or by a prescribed date.