



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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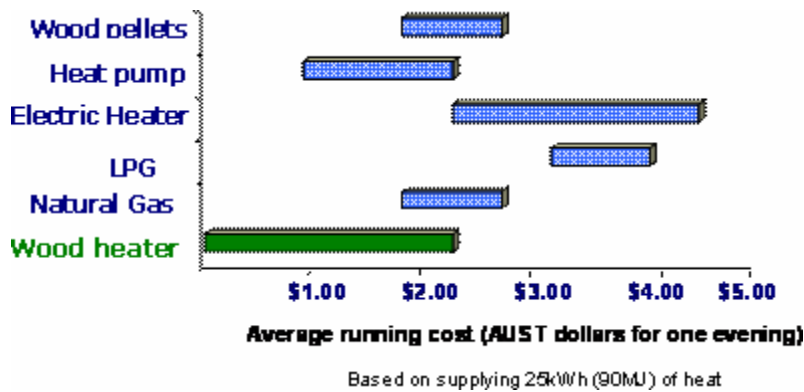
## **‘Wood heating is good heating’**

Australian manufacturers and the distributors of imported wood heating products have spent literally millions of dollars in research and development in an effort to ensure their heaters meet Australian Standards and are continually working with government bodies to improve air quality.

“Our industry has strongly supported government initiatives to reduce urban wood smoke for many years and has spent more than \$30 million in the last 10 years in developing a new generation of wood heaters that reduce particulate emission levels by 80 per cent,” said Ms. Demi Brown General Manager of the Australian Home Heating Association.

Wood smoke levels in Launceston have continued to decrease for the past 10 years. The Australian Home Heating Association (AHHA) attributes this success to community education programs and initiatives. From an original 800 residence issued with a notice for excessive household smoke from the Launceston City Council in 2004, only 100 required a second warning. Currently, the Launceston City Council has advised that there are only 20 households in the area that are problem users.

The AHHA believes that one of the many reasons wood heaters remain popular is that they offer very low running costs and have a high heat output, meaning that users can successfully heat several rooms, even an entire house with a single wood heater.



The relationship between damp houses, asthma and other ailments is well documented\*. Another notable benefit for wood heater users is that unlike most other forms of domestic heating, wood heaters generate enough heat so that some is absorbed by the house structure. A properly heated home will significantly reduce dampness. Wood heating for many sections of the population represents the only economic and practical means of providing enough heat inside the home to achieve this.

The following table shows maximum heat outputs of various forms of domestic heating after taking into account average efficiencies. It is clear that wood heaters provide the most powerful of all economic forms of domestic heating.

Appliance	Effective output
Wood heaters	6-18 KW
Flued gas heaters	4-10 KW
Unflued gas heaters	2-7 KW
Electric	1-2 KW

“People should not underestimate the significant health benefits of living in a warm, dry indoor environment, especially when the outside environment is cold, damp or humid.” Ms Brown said.

The AHHA and its members are a strong supporter of Landcare Australia, a community movement made up of 4500 groups addressing environmental problems. The AHHA and its members sponsor various Farm Forestry projects which help reduce greenhouse gases and additionally secures our future fuel supply.

Compared to other fuel options such as oil, gas and electricity, firewood can be managed as a renewable resource and provide associated greenhouse and dryland salinity benefits.

“Wood is part of an unending cycle of regeneration – use gas and it is gone, coal takes millions of years to form, but you can keep planting trees forever,” Ms Brown said.

The AHHA encourages all environment-conscious Australians to look for the Landcare and Australian Home Heating Association logos when shopping for a new wood heater.

“The manufacturers of the heaters with these logos are association members who contribute towards the Landcare sponsorship and whose heaters are certified to the Australian Standards for emissions,” she said.

Product information, operation advice and a list of AHHA member manufacturers can be found on the AHHA website [www.homeheat.com.au](http://www.homeheat.com.au)

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**For further information visit: [www.homeheat.com.au](http://www.homeheat.com.au)**

\* Rubin, G (Sept 1996) Problems with asthma? What you can do at home, Publication No. BHC-3225