Invercargill
CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, September 2, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS
CIVIC REPORTERS

Council provides timeframe to lodge applications involving multi-fuel burners

Council is advising people that they only have until Friday to lodge applications for building consents which include multi-fuel burners, following changes to Environment Southland's proposed Regional Air Quality Plan 2014. The new rules, which ban the issuing of permits for non-approved burners are effective from September 6, 2014.

The new rules were brought in to raise the air quality in Southland to standards set by the Government and will require all open fires and non-approved burners and boilers within the Invercargill and Gore airsheds to be phased out by January 1, 2029.

Council Regulations Services Manager Simon Tonkin said technically building consents needed to be approved by September 6, but Council encouraged people to lodge the application for their building consent by the end of the week as Council would still process it. "If you are unsure of the process please contact us on 211 1777 and we will help you through the consent process and go through the checklist with you."

The Council had also spoken with local suppliers of multi-fuel burners to advise them of the new rules. "We've sent the information we received to everyone on our email list and phoned suppliers and installers to let them know."

"Council is aware it's a very short timeframe, which is why we are attempting to contact people to advise them of the changes."

The Air Quality Plan also specified new requirements for outdoor barbecues,

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outdoor fires and fuels used for home heating. It affects all Southland councils which include: Invercargill City Council, Southland District Council, Gore District Council, and Environment Southland.

Mr Tonkin said multi-fuel burners were designed to burn both wood and coal but unfortunately did not meet Government emission standards.

“People can still use gas fires, pellet fires, diesel burners, and wood burners approved by the Government’s National Environmental Standards for Air Quality. You can find an approved list of wood burners at www.mfe.govt.nz and search for approved wood burners.”

Other rules in the Air Quality Plan specify that from September 6, 2014, people will only be able to burn approved fuels or materials used for home heating and outdoor burning. From May 1, 2015, people will no longer be able to burn outdoors in the Invercargill and Gore airsheds during winter (May 1 to August 31).

ENDS.

Inquiries, please contact Simon Tonkin on (03) 211 1662

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