

Air Pollution

Smoke nuisance

Smoke from wood fired heaters, fire pits and open air fires can affect neighbours and interfere with their normal activities. Council manages some nuisances under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*

The law

Council investigates most smoke emission complaints in accordance with the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and will consider:

- if the fire has a development approval
- if the fire regulated by QFES
- the amount of smoke being emitted
- the duration and rate of emissions, including what materials are being burned
- environmental sensitivities
- the degree of impact on neighbouring properties
- any measures that have been taken or could reasonably have been taken by the person causing the emission

Urban areas

Noosa Council's *Subordinate Local Law No. 3* regulates smoke emissions in urban areas that cause a nuisance. This includes fires that may cause health problems or breathing difficulties to a person.

Complaints not investigated by Council

- Bushfire smoke: [QFES](#)
- Vehicle smoke: [Department of Main Roads and Transport](#)
- Cigarette smoke: [Queensland Health](#)
- Manufacturing smoke: [Department of Environment and Science \(DES\)](#)
- Farming and agriculture-related smoke (e.g poultry farming): [Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry](#)
- State of local government premises or activity – [DES](#)

How to reduce smoke emissions

- compost, recycle or reuse waste where possible
- take garden waste to a Council transfer station

- avoid burning of paints, hazardous chemicals, wet paper or cloth and sanitary napkins
- avoid burning of wet or green waste and leaves
- give fires maximum air-flow so that they release less smoke
- check weather conditions - avoid burning any materials in windy conditions.

Complaints

In most cases, the best way to resolve a smoke nuisance issue is through polite and productive communication between yourself and the person causing the smoke nuisance. If you haven't already spoken with the person about the issue, we strongly recommend you try this approach first.

You could also download the Environmental Nuisance letter from our [website](#), and place it in their letterbox. If you have concerns about approaching or entering communication, or these measures have proven ineffective, you can lodge a complaint with Council by:

- ☎ **Phone:** (07) 5329 6500
- ✉ **Email:** mail@noosa.qld.gov.au
- ♿ ♿ **Council Office:** 9 Pelican Street, Tewantin

You will need to provide:

- your name, address and phone number (kept confidential)
- details of the smoke emission, including source address and the date and time it starts

To help you keep track of the details of the emissions, it is a good idea to fill out a daily log that you can submit with your complaint.