



MEDIA RELEASE

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

01 June 2009

EPA monitoring Mount Gambier's air quality

The Environment Protection Authority has located an air quality monitoring trailer in Mount Gambier to gather important information on wood smoke pollution in the region.

Located at the Gordon Education Centre the air monitoring equipment will monitor Mount Gambier's air quality over the winter months as part of the EPA's SmokeWatch community education program.

SmokeWatch aims to reduce wood smoke pollution in the Mount Gambier area by encouraging householders to use their wood heaters more efficiently.

Local schools in the area are participating in SmokeWatch and undertaking activities to learn about the impacts of wood smoke on local air quality.

EPA Chief Executive Helen Fulcher said that it's great to see students learning about wood smoke pollution because in winter, wood heaters can produce as much pollution as cars.

"This is the first time that wood smoke pollution has been measured in Mount Gambier so the monitoring will provide the EPA with good base line data on the area's winter air quality.

"During the winter months the air monitoring trailer will measure PM10 particles and will include a particle sizing instrument to provide the EPA with information on the size of particle pollution in the air."

The results of the air quality monitoring will be documented in a report which will be made available to the public.

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