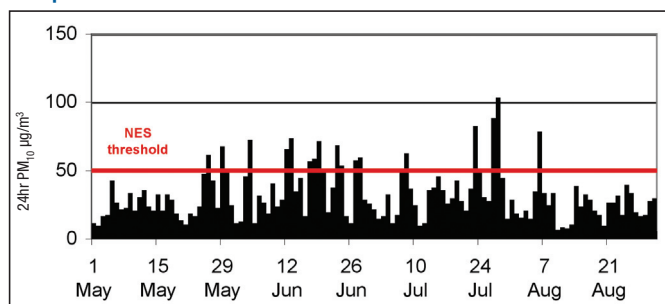


winterairreport - Kaiapoi & Rangiora

May - August 2007

North Canterbury's winter-time air pollution from solid fuel fires is a real problem and can seriously affect the health and well-being of our residents. Environment Canterbury is working with your local communities and councils to clear the air.

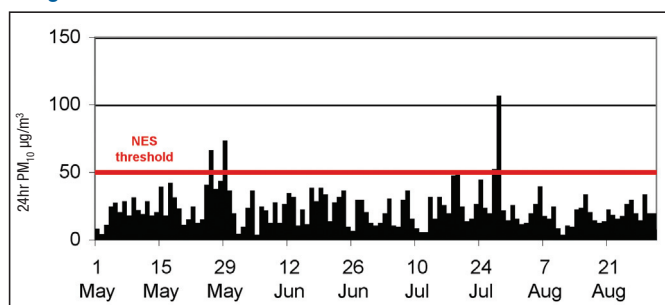
Kaiapoi



NES is the National Environmental Standards threshold and is set at 50 micrograms of particulate per cubic metre of air. Only one exceedance of this level is allowed after 1 September 2013.

Kaiapoi had 19 high air pollution nights this winter to 31 August 2007, compared to 28 by this date last year. In other years the number of high pollution nights was between 17 and 35. The maximum concentration in the town was 103 on July 28. Kaiapoi's air quality has been monitored by Environment Canterbury since 2001 when there were 39 high pollution nights, the highest number ever in the town. The maximum concentration ever recorded in Kaiapoi was 163 in 2003.

Rangiora



NES is the National Environmental Standards threshold and is set at 50 micrograms of particulate per cubic metre of air. Only one exceedance of this level is allowed after 1 September 2013.

Rangiora experienced five high readings this year, much less than the 15 high pollution nights in 2006. In other years the number of high pollution nights was between 6 and 10. The highest recording this year was 106, also on July 28. In Rangiora, air quality was monitored in 1999 and 2000 and every year since 2004. A maximum concentration of 138 was measured last year along with the highest number of nights (15).

Winter weather

The number of high pollution nights each winter depends on the weather as well as how much air pollution is produced. The worst pollution usually happens after sunset on clear, calm and cold nights, often when a frost is forecast. Cloudy evenings, fewer frosts and windier weather this winter contributed to a lower number of air pollution recordings in both Kaiapoi and Rangiora.

For more information about Environment Canterbury's Air Plan, visit www.ecan.govt.nz/Air/AirPlan.

2013 – just six years away!

Only one high pollution night a year is the target of the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality (NES). The deadline for this is 1 September 2013 – just six years away! We all need to work together to make this happen. Converting your home to clean heat appliances, burning dry wood and insulating your home can make a difference.

Clean Heat Store

A Clean Heat Store was open in Kaiapoi this winter as an Environment Canterbury and community initiative. The store provided a range of information about clean heat alternatives along with daily readings of the air quality and pollution forecasts in both Kaiapoi and Rangiora. More than 100 people visited the store each month over the four months it was open in Williams Street, Kaiapoi.

Building or renovating: think clean heat and insulation

If you are renovating or building now is the time to think about including clean heat options and insulating ceilings, floors and walls to keep your house warm. More than 40% of any heat generated inside your home escapes through the ceilings. Windows and doors should also be sealed for draughts and curtains closed at sunset to retain as much heat as possible.

Dry wood: More heat, less air pollution

If you do have a woodburner or open fire, make sure your wood is dry and has a moisture content of less than 20%. Get your firewood tested for free at the Waimakariri District Council office in Rangiora or at the Kaiapoi Community Services centre in Williams Street. Burning dry wood creates less air pollution and provides up to 40% more heat. Get next season's wood soon and stack it well so it has plenty of time to dry out before next winter.

A wide range of clean heat options to suit you

If you are considering changing to cleaner heating options for your home, the list of authorised heating appliances has been updated. Heat pumps and pellet fires are a popular choice for many Canterbury residents, along with approved woodburners. For more information visit Environment Canterbury's website www.ecan.govt.nz/approved-woodburners. By clicking on a map of your area you will see a list of all heating appliances that can be installed in your home without a resource consent.

North Canterbury residents can also easily access information about the rules for open fires, woodburners and other solid fuel burners. "The rules for keeping warm in Canterbury" contains information about whether you need a resource consent for your solid fuel burner. For a copy of the brochure please call Environment Canterbury Customer Services on 03 353 9007 or 0800 324 636, or visit www.ecan.govt.nz/air.

