

Friday 11 February 2022

Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner  
Office of the Lord Mayor  
GPO Box 2287  
Brisbane Qld 4001

By email: [lord.mayor@brisbane.qld.gov.au](mailto:lord.mayor@brisbane.qld.gov.au)

Dear Lord Mayor,

**Re: Health, Safety and Amenity Local Law 2021 – fire pits and braziers**

On behalf of people with asthma in the Brisbane Local Government Area, I express disappointment in the decision by your Council to overturn the prohibition on using fire pits and braziers in backyards.

Asthma Australia submitted to Brisbane City Council to oppose proposed changes to the local law. We explained that allowing Brisbane residents to burn fires in their backyards would contribute a new and unnecessary source of air pollution that could have serious adverse health impacts, including for people with asthma.

Asthma Australia's CEO, Michele Goldman, also wrote to you in August 2020 to communicate these concerns and ask that the ban on backyard fires be reinstated after the trial.

Asthma Australia has been contacted by many people with asthma and carers of people with asthma in Brisbane who shared concerns about the health impacts of backyard fire smoke. We have heard from people whose health has suffered as a result of exposure to smoke from backyard fires as well as people without asthma who value having clean air to breathe.

I understand that Brisbane City Council received 62 submissions during the public consultation, 59 of which opposed allowing backyard fires.

Given the weight of these concerns and the clear public health dangers of introducing a new source of pollution, it is very disappointing that Brisbane City Council has proceeded to permanently allow fire pits to be used in backyards.

I urge you to review the decision to allow backyard fires and consider the health and wellbeing of Brisbane residents, particularly those with asthma, which represents 12% of Queenslanders. I also urge you to provide Brisbane City Council with additional funding and training which will be needed to enforce the Health, Safety and Amenity Local Law 2021 and appropriately address any complaints made by residents about smoke nuisance or safety concerns.

If you would like more information, please contact Asthma Australia's Policy and Advocacy Manager, Angela Cartwright: [acartwright@asthma.org.au](mailto:acartwright@asthma.org.au).

Yours sincerely,



**Kathy Packenas**  
**Acting CEO, Asthma Australia**