<PLEASE DELETE THIS TEXT: This template letter calling for a wood heater replacement scheme is suitable for New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania and Queensland>

Dear Minister [INSERT NAME],

I am writing to you to ask you to address winter air pollution and its impact on health by introducing a wood heater replacement scheme.

I live in [INSERT SUBURB OR TOWN] and, like 1 in 9 Australians, [I / THE PERSON I CARE FOR HAS / HAVE] asthma. I dread the drop in temperatures every year which means my neighbours start lighting their wood heaters. The smoke triggers [MY/THE PERSON I CARE FOR] asthma symptoms, and I have to go to great lengths to try to avoid it – closing the windows and doors, bringing in the washing early and not being able to go for a walk. Sometimes that’s not enough and the smoke still makes its way inside.

An asthma flare up is a terrifying and life-threatening experience. Despite my best efforts to manage my condition, I can’t fully protect myself against the smoke from other people’s wood heaters.

While a minority of homes use wood heaters (7% nationally), they are a leading contributor to air pollution in winter – in some areas, the largest source of pollution. Reducing the number of homes using wood heaters would contribute to better health outcomes.

I understand that people need to stay warm in winter but that shouldn’t mean making other people sick. That’s why I’m asking you to introduce a wood heater replacement scheme which encourages people who want to switch to efficient, reverse cycle air conditioning. This scheme could target people on low incomes, like the Victorian scheme does, or be open to all residents, as is the scheme in the Australian Capital Territory.

I would appreciate a response to my ask and I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

[INSERT NAME / POSTCODE]