



Queensland Government pulls the Great Air Con

From 1 July this year Queenslanders will no longer be able to purchase the same domestic airconditioners as other Australians.

Queensland is going it alone with a ban on hard wired airconditioners in Queensland homes if those airconditioners do not meet an efficiency level which is permitted across the rest of Australia. While banned in Queensland homes, installation of these airconditioners will still be permitted in commercial premises.

But accordingly to industry spokesman Steve Anderson of the Airconditioning and Refrigeration Equipment Manufacturers Association, this ban could force Queenslanders into using less efficient unregulated airconditioners in their homes.

'Instead of a professionally-installed, well designed unit that fully complies with Australia's Minimum Energy Performance Standards, people can opt for completely unregulated, energy-hungry plu in portable equipment.'

'The Queensland Government's decision could mean an increase in electricity usage, with greater costs for consumers, which will harm rather than help the environment. The Department of Planning and Infrastructure have simply have not thought this through, but they seem determined to press ahead.'

'This type of airconditioning is already tightly regulated across Australia under the national Minimum Energy Performance Standards program, and as a result its energy efficiency is improving all the time. By going it alone the Queensland Government is doing nothing for the environment, and nothing for Queenslanders.'

According to Anderson, the decision to ban the products was undertaken without any consultation with the industry, which only discovered the Government's intentions two days before Christmas.

'We made some urgent representations, but have had no response and are still waiting- and about five o'clock on Friday night we are told- in our first direct communication from the Queensland Government- that they are going ahead regardless.'

Anderson said the Association called upon the Government to reconsider the issue, and had written to the Premier and the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Paul Lucas, seeking an urgent meeting.

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