



PART 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

NEPM Details

Title: National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure

Made by Council: 26 June 1998

Commencement Date: 8 July 1998 (advertised in *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* No GN 27, 8 July 1998, p 2211)

NEPM Goal (or purpose)

The goal of the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure is set out in clause 6 of the Measure as follows:

6. National environment protection goal

The National Environment Protection Goal of this Measure is to achieve the National Environment Protection Standards as assessed in accordance with the monitoring protocol (Part 4) within ten years from commencement to the extent specified in Schedule 2 column 5.

Desired Environmental Outcomes

The desired environmental outcome of the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure is set out in clause 5 of the Measure as follows:

5. Desired environmental outcome

The desired environmental outcome of this Measure is ambient air quality that allows for the adequate protection of human health and well-being.

Evaluation Criteria

The assessment of the effectiveness of the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure is based on the following criteria:

General Criteria (Specified in the NEPC Implementation Reporting Protocol)

- progress in implementing the NEPM
- compliance by parties bound by the NEPM with NEPM protocols and/or other NEPM reporting requirements
- progress toward achievement of the NEPM goal, the desired environmental outcomes and any NEPM standards
- issues arising that reflect on the efficiency and simplicity of NEPM administration.

Specific Criteria

The NEPM requires that jurisdictions must report against the following specific criteria:

- monitoring, assessment and reporting of compliance with the standards specified in the Measure must be conducted in accordance with clause 18 of the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure which states that such reports must include:
 - (a) the evaluations and assessments of performance against the NEPM standards and goal as required by clause 17 of the NEPM
 - (b) an analysis of the extent to which the standards of the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure are, or are not, being met in the jurisdiction
 - (c) a statement of the progress towards meeting the goal of the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure.

Clause 18 also specifies reporting should include:

- the description of the circumstances which led to exceedences, including the influence of natural events and fire management, must be reported to the extent that such information can be determined
- the percentage of data available in the reporting period for a pollutant.

Jurisdictions are also encouraged to report on progress in implementing the relevant 'Future Action' commitments set out in the revised Impact Statement for the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure (p ix).

PART 2 – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEPM AND ANY SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This part provides a summary of jurisdictional reports on implementation, discussion of any issues of concern raised by jurisdictions, and Council's overall assessment of the implementation of the NEPM.



Legislative, Regulatory and Administrative Framework

Table (5): Summary of Implementation Frameworks

Jurisdiction	Summary of Implementation Frameworks
Commonwealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the Commonwealth does not have exclusive legislative powers for any region with a population of 25 000 or more, the Commonwealth is not required to undertake direct monitoring action. Nevertheless, the Commonwealth has investigated possible significant sources of air pollution under its jurisdiction and, where appropriate, has ensured that monitoring and management strategies are in place.
New South Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NEPM is implemented through programs that are incorporated in the NSW Government's 25-year Air Quality Management Plan, 'Action for Air'. Current reporting on ambient air quality levels by the NSW EPA is referenced against the standards in the NEPM.
Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NEPM was adopted as a <i>State environment protection policy (Ambient Air Quality)</i>, made under the <i>Environment Protection Act 1970</i>. The revised SEPP (Air Quality Management) together with revisions to the SEPP (Ambient Air Quality) were gazetted on 21 December 2001 and provide a modern statutory policy framework for air quality management under which the NEPM goal can be achieved.
Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NEPM is implemented under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994 and Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 1997</i>.
Western Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NEPM is implemented under the <i>National Environment Protection Council (Western Australia) Act 1996</i>. An Environmental Protection Policy (EPP) for Air Quality setting NEPM standards and limits is expected to be finalised in 2002. An EPP for control of sulfur dioxide in the Kwinana area has been defined differently to those of the NEPM, and the EPP for control of sulfur dioxide in Goldfields residential areas (Kalgoorlie and other areas) is undergoing review to ensure compliance with the NEPM.
South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under s28A of the <i>Environment Protection Act 1993</i>, the NEPM operates as an Environment Protection Policy from the day the NEPM is given effect.
Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NEPM was taken to be a State Policy under the <i>State Policies and Projects Act 1993</i> on 31 March 1999.
Australian Capital Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative, regulatory and administrative frameworks for implementation of the NEPM are in place.
Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Environment Protection Objective for Ambient Air Quality pursuant to the <i>Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998</i> is being developed.

Council Assessment of Implementation Frameworks

Most jurisdictions have incorporated the NEPM into their legislative frameworks, adopted through environment protection legislation and the making or amendment of State Policies.



Implementation Activities

Table (6): Summary of Jurisdictional Implementation Activities

Jurisdiction	Summary of Implementation Activities
Commonwealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commonwealth chairs and supports the Peer Review Committee (PRC). • Commonwealth provided funding towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the PRC’s Technical Paper No 8 on annual reporting – the PRC’s Technical Paper No 10 based on a CSIRO study of the comparison of co-located High Volume Sampler (HiVol) and Tapered Element Oscillating Microbalance (TEOM) data – the CSIRO Air Pollution Model (TAPM) study on the potential to use numerical model simulations as a means to screen out the need for monitoring of ozone and nitrogen oxides in regional centres. • The Commonwealth undertook a number of projects principally funded under the Natural Heritage Trust Air Pollution in Major Cities Program. • National quality standards for petrol and diesel were introduced under the <i>Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000</i>, on 1 January 2002 to ensure Australians receive higher quality fuel. • The \$2.05 million Launceston Woodheater Replacement Program was implemented during 2001–02 to address air quality in Tasmania’s Tamar Valley.
New South Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW EPA has continued to upgrade its ambient air monitoring network and in 2002 the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – scope of NATA accreditation was expanded to include the measurement of PM₁₀ by the TEOM – first public forum to review the status of air quality and the effectiveness of the management strategies held in November 2001. • The Government has a number of initiatives in place for the management of air quality, these include: <i>Action for the environment</i>, a new Clean Air Fund, the Cleaner Industries Program; the Woodsmoke Reduction Program, the Cleaner Vehicles Action Plan, an On-road Enforcement Program for Smoky Vehicles, a voluntary agreement with the oil industry, a ‘greener’ bus fleet, and working with Councils to treat land use and transport planning issues.
Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA Victoria has continued to upgrade its ambient air monitoring network with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – monitoring at the Outer East Metro performance monitoring station at Mooroolbark, which commenced in June 2002 – campaign monitoring of particles as PM₁₀ at Ballarat, which commenced in February 2002 – the Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratory (MoLab) to identify local ‘hot spot’ areas and design effective local air quality improvement actions – the new Ambient Air Quality Forecasting System, a joint development by EPA, CSIRO, the Bureau of Meteorology and the NSW EPA, sponsored by Environment Australia under the National Heritage Trust, to provide ‘real time’ air quality forecasting, a 36-hour forecast suburb by suburb.



Jurisdiction	Summary of Implementation Activities
Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EPA has continued to upgrade its ambient air monitoring network with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a PM₁₀, ozone and nitrogen dioxide monitoring site at the Sunshine Coast – sulfur dioxide monitoring in Townsville – ozone monitoring in Gladstone – a revised quality assurance system for its Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Program, awaiting NATA accreditation.
Western Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Environmental Protection released: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – an implementation strategy for Perth's 30-year <i>Air quality management plan</i> – an updated air emissions inventory report for Perth (<i>Perth airshed inventory update — 1998–99</i>).
South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EPA has continued to upgrade its ambient air monitoring equipment and network with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – meteorological stations, TEOM particle (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) monitors, and laboratory upgrades – campaign monitoring at Mount Gambier for nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide and PM₁₀ – a preparation of a draft quality assurance system for its Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Program, for NATA accreditation – the release of a statewide Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Plan.
Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – introduced the draft Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality) and Regulatory Impact Statement – commenced implementation of the Launceston Woodheater Replacement Program to reduce smoke from domestic wood-fired heaters – progressed their application for NATA accreditation.
Australian Capital Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment ACT has upgraded its ambient air monitoring network with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a TEOM for PM₁₀ monitoring in the Outer South Metro region – NATA accreditation of its analytical laboratory.
Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment has continued to upgrade its ambient air monitoring network with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – PM₁₀ baseline monitoring at Alice Springs which has highlighted the significance of bushfires – potential studies into landscape fire management around Darwin.

Council Evaluation and Assessment of Jurisdictional Implementation Activities

In this reporting year, jurisdictions have:

- made significant contributions to the activities of the Peer Review Committee (PRC), notably in the development of Strategy Papers and methods designed to provide consistency in NEPM monitoring and reporting across jurisdictions

- continued with work to obtain or maintain NATA accreditation of NEPM monitoring activities
- maintained monitoring sites and extended existing networks.

Some jurisdictions have also reported on their management strategies towards achieving the goal of the NEPM. NEPC recognises that other jurisdictions may have similar strategies that were not included in their reports.



PART 3 – ASSESSMENT OF NEPM EFFECTIVENESS

To fulfil the requirements of the NEPM, jurisdictional monitoring regimes involve a network of sites. Not all pollutants are monitored at every monitoring site, nor is this required by the NEPM. Additionally, a NEPM monitoring program is a subset of each jurisdiction’s Ambient Air Monitoring Program.

The current results show that Australia’s air quality is generally good. Monitoring results indicate that in most cases the NEPM standards are being met. In a few cases, jurisdictions have not demonstrated compliance with the NEPM standards as some sites are yet to be commissioned. At other sites, the NEPM standard has been exceeded. Nevertheless, jurisdictions remain on track to meet the NEPM goal by 2008.

PART 4 – REPORTING REQUIRED BY THE NEPM

Although jurisdictional Monitoring Plans under the NEPM were approved in 2001, most jurisdictions were still implementing equipment acquisition and installation programs in 2001–02; and consequently some data reported will not be as required for the NEPM.

PART 5 – REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION BY JURISDICTIONS

The individual jurisdictional reports are attached as Annexes to Appendix 6 as follows:

Annex 1: Commonwealth	page 122
Annex 2: New South Wales	page 124
Annex 3: Victoria	page 136
Annex 4: Queensland	page 145
Annex 5: Western Australia	page 154
Annex 6: South Australia	page 163
Annex 7: Tasmania	page 171
Annex 8: Australian Capital Territory	page 176
Annex 9: Northern Territory	page 179