



NEPC Report on the Implementation of the
Ambient Air Quality NEPM

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are being met.’*



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.

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 3: 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, it is not required to undertake direct monitoring action.
New South Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NEPM is implemented through programs in the NSW Government's 25-year Air Quality Management Plan, Action for Air. • The Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Amendment Regulation 2004 was gazetted on 25 June 2004.
Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NEPM was adopted as the State environment protection policy (Ambient Air Quality), made under the <i>Environment Protection Act 1970</i>. • The revised SEPP (Air Quality Management) together with revisions to the SEPP (Ambient Air Quality) provide the statutory policy framework for air quality management.
Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NEPM is implemented under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> and Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 1997.



Jurisdiction	Summary of implementation frameworks
Western Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NEPM is implemented under the <i>National Environment Protection Council (Western Australia) Act 1996</i>.
South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under s. 28A of the <i>Environment Protection Act 1993</i>, the NEPM operates as an Environment Protection Policy.
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>.
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"> The key legislative instrument is the <i>Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998</i>.

Council assessment of implementation frameworks

Most jurisdictions have incorporated the NEPM into their legislative frameworks through their environment protection legislation or through the making or amendment of environment protection policies.

Implementation activities

Table 4: Summary of Jurisdictional implementation activities

Jurisdiction	Summary of implementation activities
Commonwealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commonwealth activities have included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – chairing and supporting the Peer Review Committee – releasing the <i>State of the Air: National Ambient Air Quality Status and Trends Report, 1991-2001</i> – completing the Fine Particle Compositional Study; it is anticipated that the report will be released in the next reporting year – funding the woodheater replacement program in Launceston and a personal exposure monitoring study – conducting a study on the costs of health effects from urban air pollution.
New South Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clean Air Fund has provided grants under the Action for Air Plan for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – to reduce emissions from smaller commercial/industrial and domestic activities – to reduce woodsmoke from woodheaters in some regional areas – to trial stage 2 vapour recovery equipment for the control of Volatile Organic Compounds emitted during motor vehicle refueling – to identify voluntary measures to increase the supply and purchase of less-polluting garden appliances. Recommendations from the review of NSW bus services are being implemented. The consultation of a review of the Clean Air (Plant and Equipment) Regulation 1997 commenced. Under the New South Wales monitoring plan, there were 27 monitoring sites consisting of a mixture of permanent and campaign stations. Twenty-one sites were operational in 2003 with six stations to be established through a staged approach.



Jurisdiction	Summary of implementation activities
Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA Victoria focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – continuing monitoring with the mobile air monitoring laboratory – finalising the Waste Management Policy (Solid Fuel Heating) – participating with other jurisdictions in conducting woodheater audits – participating in a particle composition study – raising public awareness about vehicle use and emissions – examining the emissions management of EPA licensees and working with generators of emissions of air pollutants in accordance with state environment protection policies. • In accordance with the Victorian monitoring plan, performance monitoring stations continued to operate throughout the year with campaign monitoring also being conducted.
Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A webpage was developed displaying real-time measurements from Queensland's monitoring network. • The South-east Queensland Regional Air Quality Strategy encourages the development of local air quality management plans. The Brisbane City Council released the Brisbane Air Quality Strategy to address local and regional air pollution issues. • In accordance with the Queensland monitoring plan, the EPA continued to upgrade its ambient air monitoring network with the commencement of monitoring in Toowoomba and Townsville.
Western Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Environment (DOE) continued: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – implementing the Perth Air Quality Management Plan. – providing community access to air quality monitoring data. • In accordance with the Western Australian monitoring plan, the DOE continued to operate its monitoring stations.
South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The South Australian EPA focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – consulting with the community about future directions for air quality – initiating the review of the Environment Protection (Air Quality) Policy and the Environment Protection (Burning) Policy – establishing the use of regional air quality management plans – requiring licensees to undertake environment improvement programs to improve regional air quality. • In accordance with the South Australian monitoring plan, a number of monitoring stations and instruments were brought into service and campaign monitoring was conducted.
Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (DPIWE) focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – drafting an Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality) – continuing support for the Launceston woodheater education program – completing the woodheater replacement program – educating the public on effective operation of woodheaters – tightening and improving industrial permit systems. • In accordance with the Tasmanian monitoring plan, the DPIWE upgraded its ambient air monitoring network. Funding has been approved to upgrade monitoring capabilities.



Jurisdiction	Summary of implementation activities
Australian Capital Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment ACT introduced a woodheater subsidy scheme. • In accordance with the Australian Capital Territory monitoring plan, Environment ACT continued monitoring.
Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the Australian Research Council Bushfire Smoke Project, monitoring of particulate matter in the Darwin region commenced. This collaborative research is being undertaken with a contribution of \$500 000 from the Northern Territory Government over a three-year period. • In accordance with the Northern Territory monitoring plan, the Office of Environment and Heritage commenced monitoring at three stations.

Council evaluation and assessment of jurisdictional implementation activities

In this reporting year, jurisdictions have:

- continued to work to obtain or maintain NATA accreditation of NEPM monitoring activities
- maintained monitoring sites and extended existing networks in accordance with their monitoring plans
- upgraded networks to capture PM_{2.5} monitoring data
- continued to work with the Commonwealth on research and development initiatives relating to ambient air quality
- maintained a focus on raising public awareness about air quality, including the display of information on websites
- strengthened legislation and regional air quality strategies
- focused on woodheater auditing, education and replacement programs
- continued to participate in project teams and working groups associated with the NEPM.

The above activities demonstrate that jurisdictions are committed to achieving the goal of the NEPM.

The PM_{2.5} Equivalence Program is being gradually implemented by jurisdictions. It will enable an assessment of the accuracy and precision of other PM_{2.5} monitoring methods in respect of monitoring data obtained using the reference method. Data are being collected over a three-year period and will be reported in due course.

PART 3 — ASSESSMENT OF NEPM EFFECTIVENESS

To fulfil the requirements of the NEPM, jurisdictional monitoring regimes involve a network of sites. Not all criteria pollutants are measured at every monitoring site, nor is this required by the NEPM. Additionally, the NEPM monitoring program is a subset of each jurisdiction's ambient air quality monitoring program.

Monitoring results indicate that, in most cases, the NEPM standards are being met. Some jurisdictions have not demonstrated compliance with the NEPM standards due to localised anomalies. At other sites, the NEPM standard has been exceeded.

In this reporting period, some jurisdictions have expressed concern that for specific Ambient Air Quality NEPM standards the 2008 goal might not be achievable.

PART 4 — REPORTING REQUIRED BY THE NEPM

Jurisdictions have submitted reports inter alia on compliance with clause 17 of the NEPM. These reports have been prepared in accordance with the Peer Review Committee's *Technical Paper 8 Annual Reports for the Ambient Air Quality NEPM*.

Annual compliance reports have been reviewed for national consistency and technical rigour by the Peer Review Committee (PRC). The reports provided clear and valuable information. The PRC reported that the level of consistency across all the reports is much higher than was apparent in the previous reporting year.

More detailed monitoring data are available in jurisdictional compliance reports, which are available from <www.ephc.gov.au>.



PART 5 — REPORTING REQUIRED BY THE NEPM

The Annexes to this report are in Appendix 6:

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