



NEPC Report on the Implementation of the
National Pollutant Inventory NEPM

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'The National Pollutant Inventory website is meeting the goal of the NEPM by providing accessible information on emissions.'

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PART 1 — GENERAL INFORMATION

NEPM details

Title: National Environment Protection (National Pollutant Inventory) Measure

Made by Council: 27 February 1998

Commencement date: Clauses 1 and 2 of the Measure commenced on the date of Gazettal 4 March 1998 (advertised in *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* no. S89, 4 March 1998, p. 1) with the remaining provisions of the Measure commencing on 1 July 1998.

NEPM goal (or purpose)

The environment protection goals are established by clause 6 of this Measure as follows:

6. The national environment protection goals established by this Measure are to assist in reducing the existing and potential impacts of emissions of substances and to assist government, industry and the community in achieving the desired environmental outcomes set out in clause 5 by providing a basis for:
 - (a) the collection of a broad base of information on emissions of substances on the reporting list to air, land and water; and
 - (b) the dissemination of information collected to all sectors of the community in a useful, accessible and understandable form.

In summary, the National Pollutant Inventory NEPM provides the framework for the development and establishment of the National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) which is an internet database designed to provide publicly available information on the types and amounts of certain chemicals being emitted to the air, land and water.

Desired environmental outcomes

The desired environmental outcomes, as set out in clause 5 of the Measure, are:

- (a) the maintenance and improvement of:
 - (i) ambient air quality; and
 - (ii) ambient marine, estuarine and fresh water quality;
- (b) the minimisation of environmental impacts associated with hazardous wastes; and
- (c) an expansion in the reuse and recycling of used materials.

Evaluation criteria

The assessment of the effectiveness of the National Environment Protection (National Pollutant Inventory) 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 towards 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

Longer-term performance indicators relating to the effectiveness of the NPI have been listed in some Memoranda of Understanding between the Commonwealth and the states and territories for the years 2005–09. They have been included to provide jurisdictions with a guide to the type of performance information that could be reported. Indicators could include:

- number of 'hits' on database
- number of facility reports on the database
- feedback/data from industry that indicates that the process of emission estimation and reporting from the NPI has led to increased consideration of waste minimisation and cleaner production initiatives
- feedback from users of the database on its usability and on the relevance of the information for their needs
- total number of reporters in comparison to 2004–05
- range of industry sectors reporting
- number of new reporters
- new industry sectors reporting
- any other indicator identified.

Jurisdictions should report on those specific criteria that are appropriate for their responsibilities under the NPI NEPM.



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 1: Summary of implementation frameworks

Jurisdiction	Summary of implementation frameworks
Commonwealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NEPM is implemented by administrative arrangements.
New South Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key legislative instrument is the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 1998 under the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i>.
Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key legislative instrument is the Industrial Waste Management Policy (National Pollutant Inventory) 1998 under the <i>Environment Protection Act 1970</i>.
Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NEPM is implemented under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> and the Environmental Protection Regulation 1998.
Western Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key legislative instrument is the Environmental Protection (NEPM–NPI) Regulation 1998 under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>.
South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NEPM operates as an environment protection policy under the <i>Environment Protection Act 1993</i>.
Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NEPM is a state policy under the <i>State Policies and Projects Act 1993</i>.
Australian Capital Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key legislative instrument is the <i>Environment Protection Act 1997</i>.
Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NEPM is implemented by the Environment Protection (National Pollutant Inventory) Objective established under the <i>Waste Management Pollution Control Act 2003</i>.

Council assessment of implementation frameworks

All jurisdictions have effective administrative or legislative arrangements in place for implementation of the NEPM.



Table 2: Summary of implementation activities

Jurisdiction	Summary of implementation activities
Commonwealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth activities focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – publishing the summary report for 2004–05 and a newsletter – progressing recommendations from the NPI review such as developing a new industry reporting process – participating in the NEPM variation process – updating emission estimation technique manuals – improving data quality with new calculation tools – publishing the year seven (2004–05) facility data and other information on the NPI website – improving the NPI website.
New South Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New South Wales focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – participating in the NEPM variation process – improving reporter numbers in specific sectors with gains being observed in the beverage manufacture, printing and battery production industries – revising the aggregate air emissions inventory for the Sydney–Newcastle–Wollongong airshed (to be delivered in 2006–07) – providing technical advice, support and education programs for NPI reporters and data users. • 778 NPI facility reports were received for 2004–05 compared with 753 in the previous reporting year.
Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria continued to provide a centralised electronic reporting support role for the jurisdictions. • Victoria focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – participating in the NEPM variation process – initiating a pilot program for reporting and public disclosure of greenhouse gas emissions using the NPI as a model – assisting industry to understand NPI reporting method – promoting the NPI and raising public awareness – continuing to update aggregated emission estimates for Victoria’s airsheds. • 762 NPI facility reports were received for 2004–05 compared with 734 in the previous reporting year.
Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queensland focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – participating in the NEPM variation process – providing support and training for industry reporters – identifying and recruiting new reporters – promoting the NPI and raising public awareness – streamlining aggregated emissions estimation techniques for water catchments – developing and implementing NPI audit procedures – improving the quality of reporting data from the intensive livestock industry and wastewater facilities. • 966 NPI facility reports were received for 2004–05 compared with 922 in the previous reporting year.



Western Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Western Australia focused on:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– the NEPM variation process– industry training– the Perth airshed emissions study– streamlining data processes for facility reports.• 656 NPI facility reports were received for 2004–05 compared with 574 in the previous reporting year.
South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• South Australia focused on:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– identifying and recruiting new industry reporters– surveying NPI industry reporters to determine their current and future requirements– releasing an NPI interpretive guide to assist the community, industry and government to understand the NPI– encouraging ongoing industry reporting.• NPI data is a key resource used to develop a load-based licensing fee model.• 381 NPI facility reports were received for 2004–05 compared with 357 in the previous reporting year.
Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tasmania focused on:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– increasing accuracy of emissions data by supporting new and existing reporters– identifying and recruiting new industry reporters– promoting the national reporting tool– hosting a user forum to improve usability of and access to data on the NPI website.• 172 NPI facility reports were received for 2004–05 compared with 152 in the previous reporting year.
Australian Capital Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Australian Capital Territory focused on liaising with local reporters.• 26 NPI facility reports were received for 2004–05 compared with 29 in the previous reporting year.
Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Northern Territory focused on:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– identifying and recruiting new industry reporters– developing an accurate and reliable auditing system– surveying NPI industry reporters to determine current and future requirements– participating in Victoria’s greenhouse gas pilot reporting program.• 95 NPI facility reports were received for 2004–05 compared with 102 in the previous reporting year.



Council evaluation and assessment of jurisdictional implementation activities

The NPI is an established reporting tool that is enhanced by improving:

- desktop and auditing procedures
- industry and community awareness and participation through workshops and education programs
- emission estimation techniques
- procedures for validating and verifying data
- participation rates for non-reporters, particularly by targeting specific industry sectors
- aggregated emissions data for catchments and airsheds.

Jurisdictions continue to work together through the Implementation Working Group.

EPA Victoria ran a national pilot program to trial reporting and public disclosure of greenhouse gas emissions. This program used the NPI as a model. The emissions and abatement data provided by supporting jurisdictions and pilot participants were publicly released on EPA Victoria’s website in May 2006.

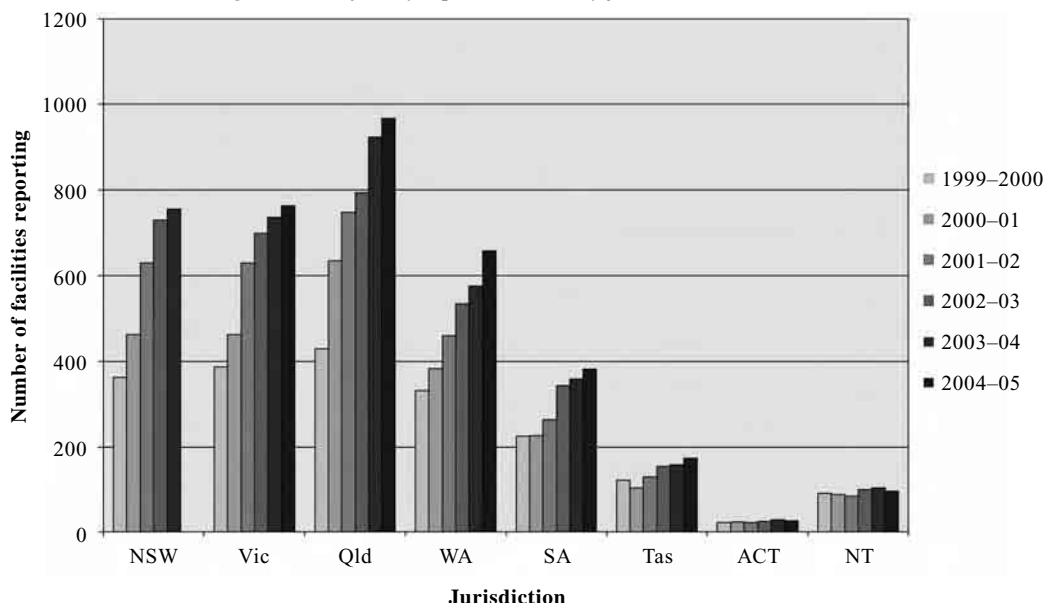
PART 3 — ASSESSMENT OF NEPM EFFECTIVENESS

The NPI website is a useful and functional reporting database for government use and continues to improve. Data accuracy continues to be an area of focus for improvement.

The NPI website had 404 676 new user sessions in 2005–06, compared to 205 769 new user sessions in the previous year. This is an increase of 97% in 2005–06. The increase in website traffic indicates that the website is meeting the goal of the NEPM by providing accessible information on emissions.

The number of facilities reporting increased to 3826 compared to 3629 the previous year. This suggests jurisdictions’ efforts to identify and increase participation rates have been successful. The graph below shows the number of facility reports over the last five years.

Figure 1: NPI facility reports received by jurisdictions 1999–2005





As a result of the second review of the NPI, the NEPC initiated a variation to the NPI NEPM. The draft variation proposes to:

- remove the exemption for aquaculture
- include reporting of waste transfers and greenhouse gases
- change the name to the National Emissions Inventory
- include greenhouse gas emission reporting
- amend the schedules
- change the threshold triggers.

A draft variation and impact statement will be released for public consultation in July 2006.

PART 4 — REPORTING REQUIRED BY THE NEPM

This annual report relates to activities in the period 2005–06, for which the NPI relates mainly to the collecting, assessing and publishing of estimated emissions of pollutants from industrial facilities that reported for the 2004–05 year. The timing of these activities is stipulated in the NPI NEPM.

Reporting information is available on the NPI website at www.npi.gov.au.

PART 5 — REPORTING ON IMPLEMENTATION BY JURISDICTIONS

The Annexes to this report are in Appendix 6:

Annex 1: Commonwealth

Annex 2: New South Wales

Annex 3: Victoria

Annex 4: Queensland

Annex 5: Western Australia

Annex 6: South Australia

Annex 7: Tasmania

Annex 8: Australian Capital Territory

Annex 9: Northern Territory.

