

NATIONAL CLEAN AIR AGREEMENT - WORK PLAN

The National Clean Air Agreement provides for a rolling programme of activities, as specified in the work plan, to respond to air quality priorities.

The work plan will be formally reviewed by Environment Ministers every two years, to ensure that actions under the Agreement remain relevant and to maintain accountability for delivery. This does not preclude an action being completed or implemented ahead of this timeframe, nor priorities being identified for potential inclusion in the work plan in the interim. The agreed work plan, including updates, will be made publicly available.

Initial work plan – December 2015 to December 2017

The initial work plan, agreed by Environment Ministers, is focused on implementing decisions taken by Ministers to address a number of long-standing air quality priorities as well as supporting delivery of a number of new initiatives and scoping projects regarding emerging air quality issues (refer to Table 1).

Table 1. Initial Work Plan 2015-2017

Approach	Priority areas	Role	Action/Timeframe
Standards	Vary National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure to strengthen particle reporting standards	NSW lead	All jurisdictions implement strengthened particle reporting standards agreed to by the National Environment Protection Council by mid-2016.
	Review National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and ozone towards strengthening the standards	VIC lead	NEPC takes decision whether to form an intent to vary sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and ozone reporting standards by mid-2016.
	Review <i>Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000</i>	Cth	Review report finalised by mid 2016.
	Review need for Air Toxics and Diesel Vehicles NEPMs	Cth Lead	Complete review of the need for Air Toxics and Diesel NEPMs in 2016.
Emission reduction measures	Reduce emissions from non-road spark ignition engines and equipment	Cth lead	Implement decisions taken by Environment Ministers with the aim of establishing emission standards by 2017.
	Reduce emissions from wood heaters	All	Implement decisions taken by Environment Ministers to address wood heater emissions commencing in 2017.
	Management of non-road diesel engines emissions	NSW	NSW EPA's Diesel and Marine Emissions Strategy implemented by 2016.
		Cth and NSW co-lead	Evaluate potential for a national approach to manage non-road diesel and marine engine emissions under priority setting process by 2016.

Approach	Priority Areas	Role	Action/Timeframe
Partnerships and cooperation	Explore partnerships with non-government stakeholders to positively influence air quality outcomes	All	Engagement with non-government sector to identify effective non-regulatory approaches to managing air quality (ongoing).
		Cth lead with relevant groups	Engagement with key sectors to examine ways to better integrate air quality management in new infrastructure developments and upgrades (e.g. with Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia) (ongoing from mid-2015).
		Cth	Clean Air Champions initiative – raise awareness and engage industry and community on clean air issues. A one-year initiative to mid-2016.
	Improve exchange of information and experiences in implementing air quality management/monitoring tools across jurisdictions	All	Proposed inclusion of information exchange as a standing item in key forums, potentially through Heads of EPA Australia and New Zealand and other appropriate future forums.
Better knowledge, education and awareness	Improve access to reliable air quality information for researchers, policy makers and the community	BoM lead	Proposed National Air Quality Data Service (Bureau of Meteorology) – delivering nationally consistent air quality data and statistics four times per year (ongoing from mid-2017).
		Cth lead	National Environmental Science Programme – Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub. A six-year funded programme with hubs commencing early 2015.
	National Pollutant Inventory reforms	Cth lead	Improve efficiencies for government, streamline processes and reduce burden on business by improving data availability and usefulness. A two-year initiative to mid-2016.

Priority setting	Establishment and implementation of priority setting process and work plan.	All	Air Project Management Group established second half of 2015. Priority setting process established first half of 2016. Ongoing from mid-2016.
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