



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
 - (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 (NPI) NEPM provides the framework for the development and establishment of the NPI, which is an Internet database designed to provide publicly available information on the types and amounts of certain chemicals that are 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
- (c) an expansion in the re-use 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 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

Longer-term performance indicators relating to the effectiveness of the National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) have been listed in some Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) between the Commonwealth and the States and Territories for the years 2001–04. They have been included to provide jurisdictions with a guide to the type of information that could be reported. Indicators could include:

- number of ‘hits’ on database
- number of facility reports on the database
- feedback and data from industry, which indicate 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 2000–01 compared to the previous year
- range of industry sectors that are reporting
- number of new reporters
- new industry sectors that are 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 (3): Summary of Implementation Frameworks

Jurisdiction	Summary of Implementation Frameworks
Commonwealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NEPM is being implemented administratively until a regulation (or declaration) is prepared under the <i>National Environment Protection Measures (Implementation) Act 1998</i> (Cwlth).
New South Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NSW <i>Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Amendment (National Pollutant Inventory) Regulation 2002</i> came into effect in June 2002. The NEPM was implemented using existing administrative systems. Full regulatory enforcement of NEPM reporting requirements will begin for the 2001–02 reporting year.
Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NEPM is implemented through the <i>industrial waste management policy (National Pollutant Inventory) 1998</i> 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 <i>Environmental Protection Regulation 1998</i>.
Western Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NEPM is implemented by the <i>Environmental Protection (NEPM–NPI) Regulations 1998</i>, under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>.
South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NEPM is implemented under s28A of the <i>Environment Protection Act 1993</i>.
Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NEPM is implemented under s12A of the <i>State Policies and Projects Act 1993</i> and enforced under the <i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</i>.
Australian Capital Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NEPM is implemented by the <i>Environment Protection Act 1997</i>.
Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NEPM is currently implemented through administrative arrangements. The NEPM will be implemented by an Environment Protection Objective under the <i>Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998</i>.

Council Assessment of Implementation Frameworks

Bilateral three-year Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) have been negotiated between the Commonwealth and States and Territories to continue the implementation of the NPI. Most jurisdictions have revised legislative arrangements for implementation and enforcement. Since MOUs have been agreed, and the scope of the NPI NEPM remains unchanged, the NEPC envisages a stable implementation period over the next two years with continued cooperation between jurisdictions.



Implementation Activities

Table (4): Summary of Jurisdictional Implementation Activities

Jurisdiction	Summary of Implementation Activities
Commonwealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth activities focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – reaching agreement on bilateral MOUs with each jurisdiction – publishing and improving the presentation of information on the Internet and the 2000–01 summary report – implementing the electronic National Reporting Tool (NRT) and – updating selected emission estimation technique handbooks.
New South Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW EPA activities focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – identifying and educating potential and existing reporters – ongoing technical support to industry – an upgrade to the electronic database to support the electronic transfer of data to the Commonwealth. • 461 NPI facility reports were received for 2000–01 as compared to 361 the previous reporting year.
Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA Victoria activities focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – developing and distributing a NRT for the NPI with the support of Environment Australia – managing all NRT electronic data nationally – submitting aggregated water estimates for the Mitchell–Tambo catchment and aggregated air estimates for the Bendigo airshed – its ongoing industry training programs including industry workshops in Melbourne and regional centres – further developing and distributing the revised Boiler Combustion Emissions Calculations Database Tool. • 462 NPI facility reports were received for 2000–01 as compared to 388 the previous reporting year.
Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queensland EPA activities focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – identifying and educating potential and existing reporters – public awareness seminars and industry workshops – integrating management of the NPI into core EPA business, which provided a high profile for the NEPM – collection of aggregated emissions data for the South–East Queensland airshed. • 632 NPI facility reports were received for 2000–01 as compared to 428 the previous reporting year.
Western Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Environmental Protection activities focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – identifying and educating potential and existing reporters – the collection of aggregated water estimates data for the Blackwood–Scott catchment – industry workshops in Perth and regional centres.



Jurisdiction	Summary of Implementation Activities
Western Australia (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 382 NPI facility reports were received for 2000–01 as compared to 330 the previous reporting year.
South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SA EPA focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – negotiations with the Commonwealth for a jointly-funded MOU – the publication of several aggregated emissions reports. • 225 NPI facility reports were received for 2000–01 as compared to 223 the previous reporting year.
Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment focused on identifying and educating potential and existing reporters. • 102 NPI facility reports were received for 2000–01 as compared to 121 the previous reporting year.
Australian Capital Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment ACT liaised with potential and existing reporters. • 23 NPI facility reports were received for 2000–01 as compared to 21 the previous reporting year.
Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Lands, Planning and Environment focused on identifying and reviewing priorities and liaised with potential and existing reporters. • 87 NPI facility reports were received for 2000–01 as compared to 95 the previous reporting year.

Council Evaluation and Assessment of Jurisdictional Implementation Activities

This was a year of consolidation for the implementation of the NPI program. The priority areas were:

- ensuring that industry was well informed about NPI processes and their obligations to report estimated emissions
- encouraging industry to improve emission estimation techniques
- streamlining data processing for facility reports from the third NPI reporting year (2000–01).

The Commonwealth improved the presentation of information and worked to ensure compliance of all the facilities by providing all relevant industry sectors with industry handbooks.

EPA Victoria played a major role in providing full administrative support and quality control of interstate facility administrative data to meet National Data Warehouse Standards for Electronic Reporting. Cooperation between the jurisdictions and acceptance of the National Reporting Tool ensured jurisdictional needs for electronic reporting was effectively

managed by EPA Victoria and supported by Environment Australia.

PART 3 – ASSESSMENT OF NEPM EFFECTIVENESS

There were 450 000 hits on the NPI database this year as compared to 340 000 hits last year. It is expected that the main users of the NPI database were researchers and industry, as well as government officials. NPI data were used in *State of the environment 2001*, which indicated that the NPI would increasingly be a very valuable tool for understanding Australia's pollutant emissions in the future.

At this stage, the NPI program has met the goal of the NEPM to collect and disseminate information. However, insufficient information has been collated for a meaningful assessment of progress towards achieving the desired environment outcomes of the NEPM. Although facilities have reported reductions in emissions from previous years, attributed to cleaner production initiatives, a definitive analysis of trends in pollutant emissions will not be possible until comprehensive and consistent reporting is achieved. Anecdotal evidence from reporters suggest



that NPI is starting to play a role in encouraging industries to be more sustainable and is improving environmental management planning and practices.

The NEPC considered the *'Review of the National Environment Protection Measure for the National Pollutant Inventory'* by Professor Ian Rae and agreed to implement technical improvements administratively. However, NEPC decided not to extend the scope of the NEPM and, at this time, not to proceed with the implementation of the remaining recommendations, particularly those involving amendments to the NEPM.

After several challenging implementation years, and with no major changes to the NEPM after the review, the NPI is entering a phase of stable operation and expanded usefulness.

PART 4 – REPORTING REQUIRED BY THE NEPM

Reporting under the NEPM continued during 2001–02. Reporting information is available on the NPI website www.npi.gov.au.

PART 5 – REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION BY JURISDICTIONS

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

Annex 1: Commonwealth	page 92
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