

National Pollutant Inventory

Part 1 of each report annex is generic, and so is presented once here.

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 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 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 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 State 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 data base
- number of facility reports on the database
- feedback and data from industry, which indicates that the process of emission estimation and reporting from the NPI has lead 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.