



NEPC Report on the Implementation of the
Diesel Vehicle Emissions NEPM

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'The progressive adoption by jurisdictions of emission testing, vehicle maintenance training, vocational training and awareness-raising activities are leading to improvements in diesel vehicle emissions.'

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PART 1 — GENERAL INFORMATION

NEPM details

Title: National Environment Protection (Diesel Vehicle Emissions) Measure

Made by Council: 29 June 2001

Commencement Date: 18 July 2001
(advertised in *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* no. GN 28, 18 July, 2001 p. 2014)

NEPM goal (or purpose)

The goal of the National Environment Protection (Diesel Vehicle Emissions) Measure is set out in clause 10 of the Measure as follows:

10. National environment protection goal
The goal of this Measure is to reduce exhaust emissions from diesel vehicles, by facilitating compliance with in-service emissions standards for diesel vehicles.

Desired environmental outcomes

The desired environmental outcome of the National Environment Protection (Diesel Vehicle Emissions) Measure is set out in clause 11 of the Measure as follows:

11. Desired environmental outcome
The desired environmental outcome of this Measure is to reduce pollution from in-service diesel vehicles.

Evaluation criteria

The assessment of the effectiveness of the National Environment Protection (Diesel Vehicle Emissions) 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

Reporting requirements set out in clause 15(1) of the NEPM are as follows:

It is intended that each participating jurisdiction submit a report to the Council on the following matters:

- (a) Assessment of the need to take action to manage emissions from the in-service diesel fleet, utilising the criteria specified in clause 13
- (b) Description of actions taken.

A brief report of all programs implemented during the reporting year to manage emissions from in-service diesel vehicles, including any programs implemented that are not covered by the guidelines in Schedule A of this Measure.

This description should take account of:

- the scope of action required to achieve the Goal and the Desired Environmental Outcome specified in this Measure; and
- any action taken and progress made to reduce emissions from in-service diesel vehicles prior to the commencement of this Measure (relevant to the first year of reporting).

- (c) Assessment of the effectiveness of any actions taken.

Participating jurisdictions must assess their progress in reducing emissions from in-service diesel vehicles identified as significant contributors to air quality problems.

This assessment should include:

- an estimation of any change in the proportion of diesel vehicles out of compliance with in-service emissions standards; and
- an estimation of the reduction in diesel vehicle emissions to ambient air.



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 13: Summary of implementation frameworks

| Jurisdiction | Summary of implementation frameworks |
|------------------------------|---|
| Commonwealth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key legislative, regulatory and administrative frameworks are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – national fuel quality standards for diesel vehicles made under the <i>Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000</i> – Australian Design Rules under the <i>Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989</i> – the White Paper, <i>Securing Australia's Energy Future</i> – Alternative Fuels Conversion Program. |
| New South Wales | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i>, and the Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2002 are the key legislative instruments. The NEPM is implemented as part of NSW government's 25-year air quality management plan, 'Action for Air'. |
| Victoria | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The primary legislative tool is the Environment Protection (Vehicle Emissions) Regulations 2003 under the <i>Environment Protection Act 1970</i> that addresses the in-service performance of the motor vehicle fleet in Victoria. |
| Queensland | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key legislative instrument is the <i>National Environment Protection Council (Queensland) Act 1994</i>. |
| Western Australia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key legislative instruments are the <i>National Environment Protection Council (Western Australia) Act 1996</i> and Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Rules 2002. |
| 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 Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2000. |
| Northern Territory | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicle performance standards are enforced under the <i>Motor Vehicles Act</i> as there is no legislation dealing specifically with vehicle emissions. |

Council assessment of implementation frameworks

Jurisdictions continue to develop appropriate implementation frameworks.

The *Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000* (Commonwealth) sets a national fuel quality standard for diesel under the Fuel Standard (Automotive Diesel) Determination 2001. High-quality fuel enables the adoption of better engine and emission control technology to meet the increasingly stringent emissions requirements of the Australian Design Rules established under the *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989*.



Implementation activities

Table 14: Summary of implementation activities

| Jurisdiction | Summary of implementation activities |
|-------------------|---|
| Commonwealth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commonwealth focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – funding the Measures for a Better Environment Program to assist jurisdictions to develop emissions testing infrastructure and audited maintenance programs – managing and maintaining its diesel fleet profile – ensuring compliance with the <i>Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000</i>, and the <i>Motor Vehicles Standards Act 1989</i> – administering the Alternative Fuels Conversion Program. |
| New South Wales | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New South Wales focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – continuing the Smoky Vehicle Program – continuing emissions testing of vehicles volunteered by private and government fleet operators – developing and piloting the Clean Fleet Program – continuing the delivery of training courses with TAFE for proper diesel vehicle maintenance – continuing trials of alternative fuels to assess emissions benefits – testing the effect of retrofit devices on reducing diesel emissions. • 2882 smoky diesel vehicles were observed and 1127 penalty notices were issued to owners of diesel vehicles. |
| Victoria | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – continuing the Smoky Vehicle Spotting and Enforcement Program – completing a study of motor vehicle derived air pollutants in the Melbourne and Geelong regions – the EcoMaintenance Program to establish training capacity for diesel mechanics – enhancing diesel emissions testing and training capability. |
| Queensland | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emissions from in-service vehicles are being addressed under the South-east Queensland Regional Air Quality Strategy, the Air Care Program and the Integrated Regional Transport Plans. • Queensland Transport is investigating new emission testing technology. • 1151 diesel vehicles were reported to the Smoky Vehicle Program. |
| Western Australia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emissions from in-service vehicles are being addressed under the Perth Air Quality Management Plan. • The Smoky Vehicle Reporting Scheme was reviewed. • A Diesel NEPM Test and Repair Pilot Program commenced. |
| South Australia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Australia focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – establishing a Diesel NEPM Test and Repair Demonstration Program – enhancing the Smoky Vehicle Program – commencing and evaluating the use of biodiesel in public transport. |



| Jurisdiction | Summary of implementation activities |
|------------------------------|--|
| Tasmania | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A submission to establish a Diesel NEPM Test and Repair Demonstration Program was made to the Commonwealth. • Through the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources, a program of vehicle inspections continued. |
| Australian Capital Territory | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the Fleet Efficiency Program, the ACT government purchased 14 additional compressed natural gas-powered vehicles. • The Smoky Vehicle Program, supplemented by random on road and car park inspections, continued. |
| Northern Territory | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Smoky Vehicle Program operates as part of the vehicle registration and roadworthiness testing procedures. |

The National Transport Commission (formerly The National Road Transport Commission) developed the Road Transport Reform (Vehicle Standards) Amendment Regulations 2001 which sets emissions standards for diesel vehicles.

Council evaluation and assessment of jurisdictional implementation activities

Some jurisdictions are integrating the Diesel Vehicle Emissions NEPM with activities that also aim to meet their Ambient Air Quality NEPM requirements. Several jurisdictions continue to revise their air emissions inventories to understand better the impacts of diesel vehicle emissions.

Jurisdictions continue to implement the NEPM through their Smoky Vehicle Programs which are well supported by the public. The effectiveness of these programs for diesel vehicles could be improved if there was separate reporting on diesel vehicles.

The progressive adoption by jurisdictions of emission testing, vehicle maintenance training, vocational training and awareness-raising activities are leading to improvements in diesel vehicle emissions.

PART 3 — ASSESSMENT OF NEPM EFFECTIVENESS

The Commonwealth-funded Measures for a Better Environment Program has enabled jurisdictions to establish programs which will contribute substantially to the achievement of the NEPM objectives either directly or by guiding future actions including the EcoMaintenance Program and test and repair programs. This is supported by programs funded by states and territories, such as Smoky Vehicle Programs.

PART 4 — REPORTING REQUIRED BY THE NEPM

Clause 15 of the NEPM sets out the information that jurisdictions are required to report. This information has been provided by jurisdictions in their individual reports in Part 5 of this report.

PART 5 — REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION BY JURISDICTIONS

The Annexes to this report are in Appendix 6:

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