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### **Australian Aluminium Council submission on the Discussion Paper - Air Quality Standards**

The Australian Aluminium Council (AAC) welcomes the opportunity to make this submission on the Discussion Paper: *Air Quality Standards* as part of the Review of the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure.

The Australian Aluminium Council is the peak industry association representing the Australian bauxite, alumina and aluminium industries, collectively known as the aluminium industry. The Council's members operate five bauxite mines, seven alumina refineries and six aluminium smelters, as well as a number of extrusion mills and rolling plants.

The Australian aluminium industry supports the Ambient Air Quality National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) and the nationally consistent framework it provides for the monitoring and reporting of the listed substances. We also share the desired environmental outcome of ambient air quality that allows for the adequate protection of human health and well-being.

All AAC member companies are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment – not only for their employees but also for the communities and regions within which they operate.

The current Discussion Paper provides a detailed examination of the most recent health evidence for the substances in question in order to assess whether the current standards are still appropriate in the light of any new health evidence. The AAC considers this to be a prudent and necessary step in the review process and in line with the stated desired environmental outcome of the AAQ NEPM.

The AAC would like to register its interest in any possible variation of the AAQ NEPM in relation to air quality standards. All of our alumina and aluminium operations are likely to be affected by any downward revision of ambient guideline values, and we would like to make ourselves available to discuss the industry-level implications of such changes.

We have particular interest in relation to how established operations will be assessed by statutory agencies in light of reduced air quality guidelines and the considerations of how compliance will be assessed. Individual member companies will also be able to provide information on site-specific implications of any proposed changes.

Our industry is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment and we look forward to participating in the review process as it develops.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Ison', with a stylized, cursive script.

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