



Environmental Protection Act 1994

Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008

Current as at 8 July 2016

Reprint note

This is the last reprint before repeal. Repealed on 1 September 2019 by 2019 SL No. 153 s 9.

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Queensland

Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008

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Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008

Part 1 Preliminary

1 Short title

This environmental protection policy may be cited as the *Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008*.

2 Commencement

This policy commences on 1 January 2009.

3 Definitions

The dictionary in schedule 2 defines particular words used in this policy.

Part 2 Application and purpose of policy

4 Application of policy

This policy applies to the air environment.

5 Purpose of policy

The purpose of this policy is to achieve the object of the Act in relation to the air environment.

Note—

See section 3 of the Act.

6 How purpose of policy is achieved

The purpose of this policy is achieved by—

- (a) identifying environmental values to be enhanced or protected; and
- (b) stating indicators and air quality objectives for enhancing or protecting the environmental values; and
- (c) providing a framework for making consistent, equitable and informed decisions about the air environment.

Part 3 Environmental values and air quality objectives

7 Environmental values for the air environment

The environmental values to be enhanced or protected under this policy are—

- (a) the qualities of the air environment that are conducive to protecting the health and biodiversity of ecosystems; and
- (b) the qualities of the air environment that are conducive to human health and wellbeing; and
- (c) the qualities of the air environment that are conducive to protecting the aesthetics of the environment, including the appearance of buildings, structures and other property; and
- (d) the qualities of the air environment that are conducive to protecting agricultural use of the environment.

8 Air quality objectives for indicators

- (1) An air quality objective stated in schedule 1, column 3 for an indicator stated in column 1 and for a period stated in column

[s 10]

- (a) firstly—avoid;
Example for paragraph (a)—
using technology that avoids air emissions
- (b) secondly—recycle;
Example for paragraph (b)—
re-using air emissions in another industrial process
- (c) thirdly—minimise;
Example for paragraph (c)—
treating air emissions before disposal
- (d) fourthly—manage.
Example for paragraph (d)—
locating a thing that releases air emissions in a suitable area to
minimise the impact of the air emissions

Part 5 Miscellaneous

10 Repeal

The Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 1997, SL No. 468
is repealed.

Schedule 1 Air quality objectives

section 8

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3		Column 4	Column 5
Indicator	Environmental value	Air quality objectives		Period	Days
		$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at 0 degrees C (except where noted)	ppm (volume/volume)		
1,2-dichloroethane	health and wellbeing	750	0.17	24 hours	
1,3-butadiene	health and wellbeing	2.4	0.001	1 year	
arsenic and compounds (measured as the total metal content in PM_{10})	health and wellbeing	$6\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$		1 year	
benzene	health and wellbeing	10	0.003	1 year	
benzo(a)pyrene (as a marker for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons)	health and wellbeing	$0.3\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$		1 year	
cadmium and compounds (measured as the total metal content in PM_{10})	health and wellbeing	$5\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$		1 year	

Schedule 1

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3		Column 4	Column 5
Indicator	Environmental value	Air quality objectives		Period	Days
		$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at 0 degrees C (except where noted)	ppm (volume/volume)		
carbon disulfide	health and wellbeing	110	0.032	24 hours	
	protecting aesthetic environment	21	0.0063	30 minutes	
carbon monoxide	health and wellbeing	11mg/m ³	9	8 hours	1 day each year
dichloromethane	health and wellbeing	3.2mg/m ³	0.85	24 hours	
		0.48mg/m ³	0.13	1 week	

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3		Column 4	Column 5	
Indicator	Environmental value	Air quality objectives		Period	Days	
		$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at 0 degrees C (except where noted)	ppm (volume/volume)			
fluoride	health and biodiversity of ecosystems (other than protected areas)	2.9		24 hours		
		0.84		30 days		
		0.5		90 days		
	health and biodiversity of ecosystems (for protected areas)	0.1		90 days		
	protecting agriculture	1.5		24 hours		
		0.4		30 days		
		0.25		90 days		
	formaldehyde	health and wellbeing	54	0.04	24 hours	
		protecting aesthetic environment	110	0.08	30 minutes	
hydrogen sulfide	health and wellbeing	160	0.11	24 hours		
	protecting aesthetic environment	7.5	0.0049	30 minutes		

Schedule 1

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3		Column 4	Column 5
Indicator	Environmental value	Air quality objectives		Period	Days
		$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at 0 degrees C (except where noted)	ppm (volume/volume)		
inorganic mercury vapour	health and wellbeing	1.1		1 year	
lead and compounds (measured as the total metal content in total suspended particles)	health and wellbeing	0.5		1 year	
manganese and compounds (measured as the total metal content in PM_{10})	health and wellbeing	0.16		1 year	
nickel and compounds (measured as the total metal content in PM_{10})	health and wellbeing	$20\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$		1 year	
nitrogen dioxide	health and wellbeing	250	0.12	1 hr	1 day each year
		62	0.03	1 year	
	health and biodiversity of ecosystems	33	0.016	1 year	

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3		Column 4	Column 5
Indicator	Environmental value	Air quality objectives		Period	Days
		$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at 0 degrees C (except where noted)	ppm (volume/volume)		
ozone	health and wellbeing	210	0.10	1 hr	1 day each year
		160	0.08	4 hours	1 day each year
ozone (measured as accumulated exposure over a threshold of 40 ppb during daylight hours)	protecting agriculture		0.2 ppm-hr	5 days	
			3 ppm-hr	3 months	
	health and biodiversity of ecosystems (for semi-natural vegetation)		3 ppm-hr	3 months	
	health and biodiversity of ecosystems (for natural or uncultivated areas)		10 ppm-hr	6 months	
PM _{2.5}	health and wellbeing	25		24 hours	
		8		1 year	

Schedule 1

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3		Column 4	Column 5
Indicator	Environmental value	Air quality objectives		Period	Days
		$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at 0 degrees C (except where noted)	ppm (volume/volume)		
PM ₁₀	health and wellbeing	50		24 hours	5 days each year
styrene	health and wellbeing	280	0.06	1 week	
	protecting aesthetic environment	75	0.016	30 minutes	
sulfate	health and wellbeing	27		24 hours	
sulfur dioxide	health and wellbeing	570	0.2	1 hr	1 day each year
		230	0.08	1 day	1 day each year
		57	0.02	1 year	
	protecting agriculture	32	0.011	1 year	
	health and biodiversity of ecosystems (for forests and natural vegetation)	22	0.0075	1 year	

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3		Column 4	Column 5
Indicator	Environmental value	Air quality objectives		Period	Days
		$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at 0 degrees C (except where noted)	ppm (volume/volume)		
tetrachloroethylene	health and wellbeing	0.27mg/m ³	0.036	1 year	
	protecting aesthetic environment	8.6mg/m ³	1.16	30 minutes	
toluene	health and wellbeing	4.1mg/m ³	1	24 hours	
		410	0.1	1 year	
	protecting aesthetic environment	1.1mg/m ³	0.26	30 minutes	
total suspended particles	health and wellbeing	90		1 year	
vanadium and compounds (measured as the total metal content in PM ₁₀)	health and wellbeing	1.1		24 hours	
vinyl chloride monomer	health and wellbeing	28	0.010	24 hours	
visibility reducing particles	protecting aesthetic environment	20km visibility in the air environment		1 hr	

Schedule 1

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3		Column 4	Column 5
Indicator	Environmental value	Air quality objectives		Period	Days
		$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at 0 degrees C (except where noted)	ppm (volume/volume)		
xylenes (as a total of ortho, meta and para isomers)	health and wellbeing	1.2mg/m ³	0.25	24 hours	
		950	0.2	1 year	

Schedule 2 Dictionary

section 3

air emission means a substance released into the air.

air environment means the part of the environment of an area or place characterised by the air emissions that may be experienced there.

air quality objective, for an area or place, means—

- (a) for an air quality objective for an indicator that is the amount of the visibility in the air environment—the minimum amount of visibility that should be in the air environment of the area or place despite the presence of the indicator; or
- (b) otherwise—the maximum level that an indicator should be in the air environment of the area or place.

dwelling means a part of a building used or capable of being used as a residence.

equivalent aerodynamic diameter, in relation to a particle (a ***measured particle***), means a length equivalent to the diameter of a spherical particle with a density of 1g/cm³ that has the same settling velocity as the measured particle.

health and biodiversity of ecosystems means the environmental value mentioned in section 7(a).

health and wellbeing means the environmental value mentioned in section 7(b).

indicator means a contaminant that may be present in the air environment.

PM_{2.5} means particles in the air environment with an equivalent aerodynamic diameter of not more than 2.5 microns.

PM₁₀ means particles in the air environment with an equivalent aerodynamic diameter of not more than 10 microns.

ppb means parts for each billion.

ppm means parts for each million.

ppm-hr, for an indicator, means the average concentration of the indicator measured in parts for each million, multiplied by the length of time in hours to which the average applies.

protected areasee the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, section 14.

protecting agriculture means the environmental value mentioned in section 7(d).

protecting aesthetic environment means the environmental value mentioned in section 7(c).

total suspended particles means particles in the air environment with an equivalent aerodynamic diameter of not more than 50 microns.