



Queensland

*Environmental Protection Act 1994*

# **Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2019**

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Queensland

# Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2019

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# Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2019

## 1 Short title

This policy may be cited as the *Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2019*.

## 2 Commencement

This policy commences on 1 September 2019.

## 3 Definitions

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

## 4 Application

This policy applies to the air environment.

## 5 Purpose

- (1) 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.

- (2) The purpose 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.

## 6 Environmental values

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.

## 7 Air quality objectives for indicators

- (1) This section and schedule 1 state the air quality objectives to be achieved and maintained under this policy.
- (2) An air quality objective stated in schedule 1, column 3 for an indicator stated in column 1 and for a period stated in column 4 is stated for enhancing or protecting the environmental value stated in column 2 of the schedule for the objective.
- (3) An air quality objective stated in schedule 1, column 3 must be worked out as an average over the period stated in column 4 for the objective.
- (4) It is intended that the air quality objectives be progressively achieved as part of achieving the purpose of this policy over the long term.
- (5) This section does not apply to an air emission that may be experienced within a residence or workplace if the air emission is released within the residence or workplace.
- (6) In this section—  
*workplace* see the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, section 8.

## 8 Management hierarchy for air emissions

- (1) This section states the management hierarchy for an activity involving air emissions that affect, or may affect, an environmental value to be enhanced or protected under this policy.

*Note—*

See section 35 of the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2019*.

- (2) To the extent that it is reasonable to do so, air emissions must be dealt with in the following order of preference—

- (a) firstly—avoid air emissions;

*Example for paragraph (a)—*

using technology that avoids air emissions

- (b) secondly—recycle air emissions;

*Example for paragraph (b)—*

re-using air emissions in another industrial process

- (c) thirdly—minimise air emissions;

*Example for paragraph (c)—*

using technology, materials or industrial processes that minimise air emissions

- (d) fourthly—manage air emissions.

*Examples for paragraph (d)—*

- locating a thing that releases air emissions in a suitable area to minimise the impact of the air emissions
- treating air emissions before release
- dispersing air emissions to minimise the impact of the air emissions

## 9 Repeal

The Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008, SL No. 441 is repealed.

# Schedule 1 Air quality objectives

section 7

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3		Column 4
Indicator	Environmental value	Air quality objectives		Period
		$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (except where noted)	ppm (volume/volume)	
1.2-dichloroethane	health and wellbeing	764	0.173	24 hours
1.3-butadiene	health and wellbeing	2.4	0.001	1 year
arsenic and compounds (measured as the total metal content in $\text{PM}_{10}$ )	health and wellbeing	$6\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$		1 year
benzene	health and wellbeing	5.4	0.002	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 $\text{PM}_{10}$ )	health and wellbeing	$5\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$		1 year



Column 1	Column 2	Column 3		Column 4
Indicator	Environmental value	Air quality objectives		Period
		$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (except where noted)	ppm (volume/volume)	
carbon disulfide	health and wellbeing	109	0.032	24 hours
	protecting aesthetic environment	22	0.006	30 minutes
carbon monoxide	health and wellbeing	11mg/m <sup>3</sup>	9	8 hours
dichloromethane	health and wellbeing	3.3mg/m <sup>3</sup>	0.9	24 hours
		0.49mg/m <sup>3</sup>	0.13	1 week
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	109	0.082	30 minutes

Schedule 1

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3		Column 4
Indicator	Environmental value	Air quality objectives		Period
		$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (except where noted)	ppm (volume/volume)	
hydrogen sulfide	health and wellbeing	164	0.108	24 hours
	protecting aesthetic environment	7.5	0.005	30 minutes
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 $\text{PM}_{10}$ )	health and wellbeing	0.16		1 year
nickel and compounds (measured as the total metal content in $\text{PM}_{10}$ )	health and wellbeing	$22\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$		1 year
nitrogen dioxide	health and wellbeing	164	0.08	1 hr
		31	0.015	1 year
	health and biodiversity of ecosystems	33	0.016	1 year

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3		Column 4
Indicator	Environmental value	Air quality objectives		Period
		$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (except where noted)	ppm (volume/volume)	
ozone	health and wellbeing	139	0.065	8 hours
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 <sub>2.5</sub>	health and wellbeing	25		24 hours
		8		1 year
PM <sub>10</sub>	health and wellbeing	50		24 hours
	health and wellbeing	25		1 year
styrene	health and wellbeing	284	0.061	1 week
	protecting aesthetic environment	76	0.016	30 minutes

Schedule 1

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3		Column 4
Indicator	Environmental value	Air quality objectives		Period
		$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (except where noted)	ppm (volume/volume)	
sulfate	health and wellbeing	27		24 hours
sulfur dioxide	health and wellbeing	286	0.1	1 hr
		57	0.02	24 hours
	protecting agriculture	31	0.011	1 year
	health and biodiversity of ecosystems (for forests and natural vegetation)	21	0.0075	1 year
tetrachloroethylene	health and wellbeing	0.27mg/m <sup>3</sup>	0.037	1 year
	protecting aesthetic environment	8.7mg/m <sup>3</sup>	1.2	30 minutes
toluene	health and wellbeing	4.1mg/m <sup>3</sup>	1	24 hours
		400	0.1	1 year
	protecting aesthetic environment	1.1mg/m <sup>3</sup>	0.3	30 minutes
total suspended particles	health and wellbeing	90		1 year

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3		Column 4
Indicator	Environmental value	Air quality objectives		Period
		$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (except where noted)	ppm (volume/volume)	
vanadium and compounds (measured as the total metal content in $\text{PM}_{10}$ )	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
xylenes (as a total of ortho, meta and para isomers)	health and wellbeing	1.2 $\text{mg}/\text{m}^3$	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.

***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/cm<sup>3</sup> that has the same settling velocity as the measured particle.

***health and biodiversity of ecosystems*** means the environmental value mentioned in section 6(a).

***health and wellbeing*** means the environmental value mentioned in section 6(b).

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

***mg/m<sup>3</sup>*** means milligram per cubic metre at 0 degrees Celsius and an atmospheric pressure of 1.

***ng/m<sup>3</sup>*** means nanogram per cubic metre at 0 degrees Celsius and an atmospheric pressure of 1.

***PM<sub>2.5</sub>*** means particles in the air environment with an equivalent aerodynamic diameter of not more than 2.5 microns.

***PM<sub>10</sub>*** 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 area*** see the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, schedule.

***protecting aesthetic environment*** means the environmental value mentioned in section 6(c).

***protecting agriculture*** means the environmental value mentioned in section 6(d).

***residence*** includes a building, or part of a building, capable of being used as a dwelling.

***total suspended particles*** means particles in the air environment with an equivalent aerodynamic diameter of less than 100 microns.

**$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$**  means microgram per cubic metre at 0 degrees Celsius and an atmospheric pressure of 1.