Australia

The National Environment Protection Council (*see* http://www.nepc.gov.au/) is a statutory body with law making powers and consists of ministers from the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments. It has established National Environment Protection Measures (NEPMs) to help protect or manage particular aspects of the environment. Implementation of the NEPMs falls to State and Territory Governments. These can adopt broader or more stringent standards than those provided for by the NEPMs but may not adopt lower standards.

The two NEPMs relevant to air pollutants are the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure and the National Environment Protection (National Pollutant Inventory) Measure.

The current *National Environment Protection (National Pollutant Inventory) Measure*, published in 2008 (*see* https://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2008C00620), lists 93 reportable substances. Industrial facilities that use or produce any of these substances (according to specified thresholds) are required to estimate and report emissions every year. These include emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide, PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ from power plants. A publically available database of the Inventory is available (*see* http://www.npi.gov.au/). Greenhouse gas emissions are excluded. These are covered in the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007 (*see* https://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2007A00175 and http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/NGER/About-the-National-Greenhouse-and-Energy-Reporting-scheme), and include greenhouse gases from coal-fired power plants.

In 2010, the Commonwealth Government decided to establish national CO_2 emission standards for power plants, with all plants required to be built ready for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). The CCS-ready policy was abandoned when a carbon pricing arrangement was introduced on 1 July 2012, since the carbon tax made the emission standards redundant. The carbon tax has now been repealed and is being replaced by the Emissions Reduction Fund. The Emissions Reduction Fund Safeguard Mechanism, which will set CO_2-e emission thresholds for approximately 170 of Australia's largest CO_2-e emitters, is proposed to be finalised by late 2015 and to come into effect from July 2016. Some state governments planned to limit greenhouse gas emissions from new power plants. However, the limits have been abandoned in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria. Currently, no states have emission standards covering CO_2 from power plants.

National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure

The *National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure* (Ambient Air Quality NEPM), established in 1998, provides a nationally consistent framework for monitoring and reporting six criteria air pollutants, namely carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulphur dioxide, lead and particulate matter (PM_{10}). It was amended in 2003 to include fine particulate matter, $PM_{2.5}$ (*see* https://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2004H03935).The Ambient Air Quality NEPM sets national air quality standards for each of these pollutants, which are legally binding, except the standards for $PM_{2.5}$ which are only advisory. A review was released in September 2011 (*see* http://www.nepc.gov.au/nepms/ambient-air-quality). The review's recommendations will be prioritised and responded to through the development of the National Plan for Clean Air. The discussion paper, *Working towards a National Clean Air Agreement*, was released in February 2015. On 15 July 2015, State Environment Ministers committed to finalise the Agreement and its initial work plan, before the end of 2015 (*see* http://www.environment.gov.au/protection/air-quality/national-clean-air-agreement).

Although the Ambient Air Quality NEPM is not intended to regulate emissions from individual industrial facilities, organisations licensing emissions from a power plant would normally consider the effect of any emissions on ambient concentrations near population centres.

The current standards and goals for the Ambient Air Quality NEPM are:

Pollutant	Averaging period	Maximum concentration	Goal within 10 years Maximum number of exceedances
carbon monoxide	8 hours	9.0 ppm	1 day a year
nitrogen dioxide	1 hour 1 year	0.12 ppm 0.03 ppm	1 day a year none
photochemical oxidants (as ozone)	1 hour 4 hours	0.10 ppm 0.08 ppm	1 day a year 1 day a year
sulphur dioxide	1 hour 1 day 1 year	0.20 ppm 0.08 ppm 0.02 ppm	1 day a year 1 day a year none
lead	1 year	0.50 µg/m^3	none
particles as PM_{10}	1 day	50 µg/m^3	5 days a year

ppm is parts per million µg/m^3 is micrograms per cubic metre

The advisory reporting standards and goals for $PM_{2.5}$ are:

Pollutant	Averaging period	Maximum concentration	Goal
particles as $PM_{2.5}$	1 day 1 year	25 µg/m^3 8 µg/m^3	goal is to gather sufficient data nationally to facilitate a review of the Advisory Reporting Standards as part of the review of this Measure scheduled to commence in 2005*

* The review was completed in 2011

Implementation of the Ambient Air Quality NEPM is typically the responsibility of the State and Territory Environment Protection Authorities.

Australia does not have national air emission standards. The following sections cover the states and territories that provide emission standards for coal-fired power plants and industrial boilers or, where these are not specified, the state-wide air quality standards.

Australian Capital Territory (ACT)

The *Environment Protection Act 1997* (republished 1 July 2015, *see* http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/1997-92/current/pdf/1997-92.pdf) provides the regulatory framework for environmental protection in the ACT. It established the Environment Protection Authority as the statutory body for environmental regulation and policy (*see* http://www.environment.act.gov.au/environment/environment_protection_authority/legislation_and_policies). According to the *Environment Protection Regulation 2005* (republished 27 January 2014,

see http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/sl/2005-38/current/pdf/2005-38.pdf), emission standards for air pollutants from industrial processes are covered by the *National Guidelines for Control of Emission of Air Pollutants from New Stationary Sources 1985*, as in force immediately before it was rescinded by the National Health and Medical Research Council on 29 February 2000. The Environment Protection Act 1997 and Environment Protection Regulation 2005 were amended in the *Environment Protection Amendment Bill 2014* (*see* http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_50463/20140918-58976/pdf/db_50463.pdf) after a review in 2012. The *Air Environment Protection Policy* (3 November 1999, *see* http://www.environment.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/574730/airenvprotectionpolicy.pdf) is not legally binding but helps to explain the legal requirements of the Environment Protection Act 1997 and the Environment Protection Regulation 2005.

The *National Guidelines for Control of Emission of Air Pollutants from New Stationary Sources 1985* (*see* https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines-publications/eh4) only cover new plants, and the limits for coal-burning boilers are:

Pollutant	Plant type	Emission limits, mg/m^3
particulate	power plant boiler	80
	other coal-burning boiler	250
	any other trade, industry process, industrial plant or fuel-burning equipment	250
nitrogen oxides (as NO_2)	power generating boiler >30 MWe	800
	power generating boiler <30 MWe	500
	industrial steam boiler	500
sulphuric acid mist and sulphur trioxide (as SO_x)	fuel-burning equipment	200 (expressed as SO_3)
	sulphuric acid plants or plants producing sulphur trioxide	0.075 kg/t of 100% acid or equivalent
carbon monoxide	any trade, industry or process other than cement manufacture, brick manufacture and stationary industrial diesels	1,000[1]
fluorine compounds	any trade, industry or process other than manufacture of aluminium from alumina	50 (expressed as hydrofluoric acid)

[1] Exempt processes should be fitted with stacks in order to achieve adequate dispersion

Reference conditions are:

- 0°C, 101.3 kPa and on a dry flue gas basis with 12% CO_2 in the flue gas for particulate
- 0°C, 101.3 kPa and on a dry flue gas basis with 7% O_2 in the flue gas for NOx (calculated as NO_2)

New South Wales (NSW)

The *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (the POEO Act, *see* http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/act+156+1997+cd+0+N) provides the legal

basis for environmental protection regulation in NSW, whilst the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2010* (the POEO Regulation, *see* http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/subordleg+428+2010+cd+0+N) sets emission standards for air pollutants from power plants and industrial processes. The POEO Act established a system of environment protection licensing for 'scheduled' activities. All power plants and industrial facilities require a licence to operate. The licence is additional to, and independent of, the POEO Regulation requirements and licence conditions may specify emission limits that are more stringent and/or include emission limits for pollutants not covered by the POEO Regulation. The tighter requirements are included when warranted by the individual circumstances of each premise, such as its proximity to the local population. The NSW Environment Protection Authority (*see* http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/), an independent statutory body, is responsible for issuing the licences and for administering the POEO Regulation. It is the environment regulator for NSW.

The POEO Regulation sets emission limits for particulates and NOx from coal combustion at scheduled premises.

Emission standards for particulates

Plant type	Particulate emission limit, mg/m^3
group 1	400
group 2, 3 or 4	250
group 5	100
group 6	50

The particulate emission limit applies to coal burning appliances and activities in power plants, iron and steel facilities, and other industries. However, the emission limit value for NOx (as NO_2 or NO or both as NO_2 equivalent) varies according to the industry, as indicated in the following table.

Emission standards for NOx

Industry	Equipment type	Plant type	Emission limit, mg/m^3
power generation	boiler, operating on fuel other than gas, including one used in connection with an electricity generating system with a capacity of ≥30 MW	group 1, 2, 3 or 4	2500
		group 5	800
		group 6	500
	turbine, operating on fuel other than gas, used in connection with an electricity generating system with a capacity of ≥30 MW	group 1, 2, 3 or 4	2500
		group 5	150
		group 6	90
aluminium: primary production	pre-baked anode production	group 1, 2, 3 or 4	2500
		group 5	2000
		group 6	300

aluminium: secondary production	any activity or plant, including any smelting, refining or holding furnace	group 1, 2, 3 or 4 group 5 group 6	2500 2000 300
iron and steel: primary production	any fuel-burning equipment or power generating plant	group 1, 2, 3 or 4 group 5 group 6	2500 2000 500
iron and steel: secondary production	any activity or plant except electric arc furnace	group 1, 2, 3 or 4 group 5 group 6	2500 2000 350
non-ferrous metals (excluding aluminium): primary production	any fuel-burning equipment	group 1, 2, 3 or 4 group 5 group 6	2500 2000 350
non-ferrous metals (excluding aluminium): secondary production	any activity or plant	group 1, 2, 3 or 4 group 5 group 6	2500 2000 300
paper, paper pulp or pulp products industries	any boiler used in connection with power generation	group 1, 2, 3 or 4 group 5 group 6	2500 2000 300

Emission standards for sulphur trioxide (SO_3)

Industry	Equipment type	Plant type	Emission limit, mg/m^3
general activities and plant	any activity or plant	group 1 group 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6	200 100

Emission standards for fluorine (F_2) and any compound containing fluorine, as total fluoride (HF equivalent)

Industry	Equipment type	Plant type	Emission limit, mg/m^3
power generation	any activity or plant using coal	group 1 group 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6	100 50
general activities and plant	any activity or plant, other than the manufacture of aluminium from alumina	group 1 group 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6	100 50

Notes:

Reference conditions for the emission limit values relating to:

- Group 1, 2, 3 or 4 facilities are 0°C, 101.3 kPa and on a dry flue gas basis with 12% CO_2 in the flue gas for particulate and 0°C, 101.3 kPa and on a dry flue gas basis for NOx

- Group 5 or 6 facilities are 0°C, 101.3 kPa and on a dry flue gas basis with 7% O_2 in the flue gas.

An activity carried out, or plant operated on scheduled premises belongs to:

Group 1 if it

- started before 1 January 1972
- started on or after 1 January 1972 as a result of a pollution control approval granted under the Pollution Control Act 1970 pursuant to an application made before 1 January 1972;

Group 2 if it started on or after 1 January 1972 as a result of a pollution control approval granted under the Pollution Control Act 1970 pursuant to an application made on or after 1 January 1972 and before 1 July 1979;

Group 3 if it stared on or after 1 July 1979 as a result of a pollution control approval granted under the Pollution Control Act 1970 pursuant to an application made on or after 1 July 1979 and before 1 July 1986;

Group 4 if it started on or after 1 July 1986 as a result of a pollution control approval granted under the Pollution Control Act 1970 pursuant to an application made on or after 1 July 1986 and before 1 August 1997;

Group 5 if it started on or after 1 August 1997 as a result of

- a pollution control approval granted under the Pollution Control Act 1970 pursuant to an application made on or after 1 August 1997 and before 1 July 1999, or
- an environment protection licence granted under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 pursuant to an application made on or after 1 July 1999 and before 1 September 2005;

Group 6 if it started on or after 1 September 2005, as a result of an environment protection licence granted under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 pursuant to an application made on or after 1 September 2005. However, the plant belongs to Group 5 if it is the subject of a development consent in respect of which the NSW Environmental Protection Authority had given general terms of approval (within the meaning of section 93 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979) before 1 September 2005.

In addition, an emission unit (that is, a unit which emits, treats or processes air impurities or controls the discharge of air impurities into the atmosphere) belongs to Group 6 if:

- the emission unit is in Group 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 and is altered as a result of the modification of development consent under section 96 (2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 pursuant to an application made on or after 1 September 2005, or the variation of the licence for the plant, and the effect of the alteration is that there is an increase in the emission of air impurities, or a change in the nature of the air impurities emitted or the intensity with which air impurities are emitted, from the plant of which the emission unit forms part, or to which it is attached
- an emission unit in Group 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 is replaced in a plant operating in the Greater Metropolitan Area.

From 1 January 2008, all plants belonging to Group 1 belong to Group 2. However, if the conditions of the licence state that it belongs to Group 1, then it remains in this group.

From 1 January 2012, plants belonging to Group 2 (including any previously belonging to Group 1) belong to Group 5, unless the conditions of the licence state that it belongs to Group 1 and 2.

Northern Territory

The Northern Territory follows the air quality standards of the Ambient Air Quality NEPM 2008 (*see* the earlier *National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure* Section). A monitoring plan for the six criteria air pollutants has been set up (*see* http://www.ntepa.nt.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/135671/monitoringplan.pdf).

Queensland

The *Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008* (*see* http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/E/EnvProtAirPo08.pdf) provides state-wide air quality standards for various pollutants, including particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, and carbon monoxide. The limits for the health and well-being of people follow the air quality standards of the Ambient Air Quality NEPM 2008 (*see* the earlier *National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure* Section). Although the policy does not regulate emissions from individual industrial facilities, organisations licensing emissions from a power plant would normally consider the effect of any emissions on ambient concentrations near population centres.

South Australia

The Environment Protection Authority (*see* http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/) is South Australia's primary independent environment protection regulator, responsible for administrating the Environment Protection Act 1993, as well as developing guidelines and codes of practice. The *Environment Protection Act 1993* (*see* http://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/A/ENVIRONMENT%20PROTECTION%20ACT%201993.aspx) provides the regulatory framework to protect South Australia's environment, including air, land and water. Emission limits for air pollutants from power plants and industrial processes are set out in the *Environment Protection (Air Quality) Policy 1994* (*see* http://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/POL/ENVIRONMENT%20PROTECTION%20%28AIR%20QUALITY%29%20POLICY%201994.aspx). The Policy was amended in 2005 and became effective from 3 November 2005. Emission limits relevant to coal combustion equipment are:

Pollutant	Plant type	Plant size	Emission limit, mg/m^3
particulate	boiler	≥100 MJ/h (total heat release)	250
	other process[1]		250
NOx	power plant	≥250 MWe (rated output)	700
	other fuel burning equipment[2]	>150,000 MJ/h, gross (maximum heat input rate)	500

sulphuric acid mist or sulphur trioxide (as SO_3)	any process	not applicable	100
carbon monoxide	any process	not applicable	100
fluorine	any process[3]	not applicable	50 (as HF equivalent)

[1] except for a process using plant for heating of metals or metal ores
[2] excludes internal combustion engines
[3] except for primary smelters for the manufacture of aluminium from alumina

Note: The reference conditions for the emission limit values are:
for particulate
- 0°C, 101.3 kPa and on a dry flue gas basis with 12% CO_2 in the flue gas for boilers
- 0°C, 101.3 kPa and on a dry flue gas basis for other processes

for NOx, 0°C, 101.3 kPa and on a dry flue gas basis with 7% O_2 in the flue gas.

Tasmania

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in Tasmania (*see* http://epa.tas.gov.au/epa/) is an independent statutory body and is supported by the EPA Division of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment. Its jurisdiction includes environmental management and pollution control matters deriving from the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (EMPCA, *see* http://epa.tas.gov.au/policy/empca and http://www.thelaw.tas.gov.au/tocview/index.w3p;cond=;doc_id=44%2B%2B1994%2BAT%40EN%2B20150710000000;histon=;prompt=;rec=;term=), which is the primary environment protection and pollution control legislation in Tasmania. The emission limit (specified as in-stack concentrations) for pollutants discharged to the atmosphere are set in the *Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality) 2004* (Air Quality EPP, *see* http://epa.tas.gov.au/documents/epp_air_quality_2004.pdf), which came into force on 1 June 2005. It due for review by June 2015 since under the EMPCA, an environment protection policy is to be reviewed at least every 10 years after it came into effect.

The emission limits given in the Air Quality EPP relevant to coal combustion equipment are:

Pollutant	Plant type	Emission limit, mg/m^3
particulate	any fuel burning equipment or industrial plant	100
NOx as NO_2	power generating boiler	
	<30 MW	500
	≥30 MW	800
	industrial boiler	500
	any trade, industry or process other than for the manufacture of glass using sodium nitrate	2000
sulphuric acid mist or sulphur trioxide or both	any trade, industry or process	100 (as SO_3 equivalent)

fluorine	any trade, industry or process, other than a primary aluminium smelter manufacturing aluminium from alumina	50 (as HF or HF equivalent)

Notes:
The emission limits apply to new stationary sources and facility upgrades.
The limits do not apply to boilers with a heating capacity (as determined by the apparatus by which it is heated) of less than 110 MJ/h.
Reference conditions for the emission limit values are 0°C, 101.3 kPa and on a dry flue gas basis with 7% O_2 in the flue gas.

Victoria

The Environment Protection Act 1970 (*see* http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/Domino/Web_Notes/LDMS/LTObject_Store/LTObjSt2.nsf/DDE300B846EED9C7CA257616000A3571/367C2C1E3FA0677FCA257761001FCB97/$FILE/70-8056a172.pdf and http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-us/legislation/acts-administered-by-epa#EPAct) is Victoria's primary environment protection legislation, with a basic philosophy of preventing pollution and environmental damage by setting environmental quality objectives and establishing programmes to meet them. It established the Environment Protection Authority (*see* http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/) as the independent statutory body for environmental regulation and policy. State environment protection policies (SEPPs) are subordinate legislation made under the provisions of the Environment Protection Act to provide more detailed requirements and guidance for its application. SEPPs adopted by the state government to protect Victoria's air are the State Environment Protection Policy (Ambient Air Quality) and the State Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality Management).

The *SEPP (Ambient Air Quality)* (published in the Victoria Government Gazette, no. S019, 9 February 1999, *see* http://www.gazette.vic.gov.au/gazette/Gazettes1999/GG1999S019.pdf) sets air quality objectives and goals for Victoria. It adopted the requirements of the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure, discussed earlier.

The *SEPP (Air Quality Management)* (published in the Victoria Government Gazette, no.S240, 21 December 2001, *see* http://www.gazette.vic.gov.au/gazette/Gazettes2001/GG2001S240.pdf) established the framework for managing emissions into the air in Victoria from all sources of air pollutants, so that the air quality objectives outlined in SEPP (Ambient Air Quality) are met. It addresses not only ambient (or regional) air quality, but also the management of particular sources (for example, industry, motor vehicles and open burning) and local air quality impacts, including air toxics, greenhouse gases and ozone-depleting substances. Emission limits for stationary sources applicable to coal combustion equipment have been set at:

Pollutant	Plant type	Facility size	Emission limit value
combustion particles	solid fuel fired units		0.5 g/m^3
particulate matter	all stationary sources except for fuel-fired units used for	0-3 kg/min*	17.5 g/min
		3-10 kg/min*	17.5 plus 2.5 per kg/min process weight in excess of 3

	steam or electricity generation and incinerators	10-100 kg/min*	35 plus 1.0 per kg/min process weight in excess of 10
		>100 kg/min*	125 plus 0.2 kg/min process weight in excess of 100
total particulate matter	all stationary sources		0.5 g/m^3
NOx (as NO_2)	fuel burning unit other than internal combustion engines and glass manufacturing plants	>150,000 MJ/h, gross (heat input rate)	1 g/m^3
sulphuric acid mist and sulphur trioxide	all stationary sources		0.2 g/m^3 (as SO_3)
fluorine compounds	all stationary sources except for plant manufacturing aluminium from alumina		0.05 g/m^3 (expressed as HF)

* process weight rate, where process weight is the total weight of coal and other materials introduced into the unit that may discharge contaminants into the atmosphere

The emission limits for new stationary sources in the Air Quality Control Regions, given in the SEPP (Air Quality Management) are:

Pollutant	Plant type	Facility size	Emission limit value
combustion particles	all stationary sources except incinerators		0.25 g/m^3
particulate matter	all stationary sources except fuel fired units used for steam or electricity generation and incinerators	0-3 kg/min*	14 g/min
		3-10 kg/min*	14 plus 2.0 per kg/min process weight in excess of 3
		10-100 kg/min*	28 plus 0.8 per kg/min process weight in excess of 10
		>100 kg/min*	100 plus 0.18 per kg/min process weight in excess of 100
total particulate matter	all stationary sources except incinerators		0.25 g/m^3
NOx (as NO_2)	fuel burning units other than internal combustion engines and glass manufacturing plants	>150,000 MJ/h, gross (heat input rate)	0.5 g/m^3
	coal-fired power plants	≥250 MWe	0.7† g/m^3
sulphuric acid mist and sulphur trioxide	all stationary sources except for sulphuric acid plants		0.2 g/m^3 (expressed as SO_3)
fluorine compounds	all sources except for plant manufacturing aluminium from alumina		0.05 g/m^3 (expressed as HF)

CO	all stationary sources except internal combustion engines and cold blast cupolas		2.5 g/m^3

* process weight rate, where process weight is the total weight of coal and other materials introduced into the unit that may discharge contaminants into the atmosphere
† this limit may be relaxed to 0.78 g/m^3 in individual cases where it can be shown that 0.7 g/m^3 is too restrictive in relation to such matters as the type of fuel being burned, existing emission control technology, and factors of health and safety

Notes:
'Air Quality Control Region' means a segment of the air environment which, because of its population size or density, industrialisation, projected development, or meteorological characteristics, has been gazetted as requiring the regional effects of emissions of pollutants to the air environment to be considered in formulating control requirements. Two such regions are the Port Philip Air Quality Control Region and Latrobe Valley Air Quality Control Region.

'New source' means a stationary source of air pollutants for which development works are yet to commence. An existing source may be classified as a new source if it is to be relocated, or if modifications to its equipment or processes are likely to lead to an increase in the quantity of or an alteration in the nature of pollutants emitted.

Reference conditions for the emission limit values are 0°C, 101.3 kPa and on a dry flue gas basis for particulate matter, but with the additional requirement of 12% CO_2 in the flue for combustion particles, and 7% O_2 in the flue gas for NOx.

Dilution of pollutants to meet emission limits is not permitted except where noted.

Western Australia

There are no state-wide air quality standards in force in Western Australia. However Western Australia has Environmental Protection Policies (EPPs). EPPs are statutory policies developed under Part III of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act, *see* https://www.slp.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/main_mrtitle_304_homepage.html). They are whole-of-Government policies that are ratified by Parliament and have the force of law from the day they are published in the Western Australian Government Gazette. EPPs are developed, for instance, to establish environmental values and environmental quality objectives for a particular environment or component of the environment. One EPP (*see* http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/Policies_guidelines/envprotecpol/Pages/1077_EnvironmentalProtectionGoldfieldsResidentialA.aspx) has set a limit of 0.25 ppm per year for SO_2 emissions in the Goldfields residential areas.

In addition, power plant operators are issued with licences under the EP Act. These include emission limits (which can include limits for SO_2, NOx and particulates) that the power plants must meet.

UPDATED: 17 September 2015