

Air Quality Statement-submissions summary



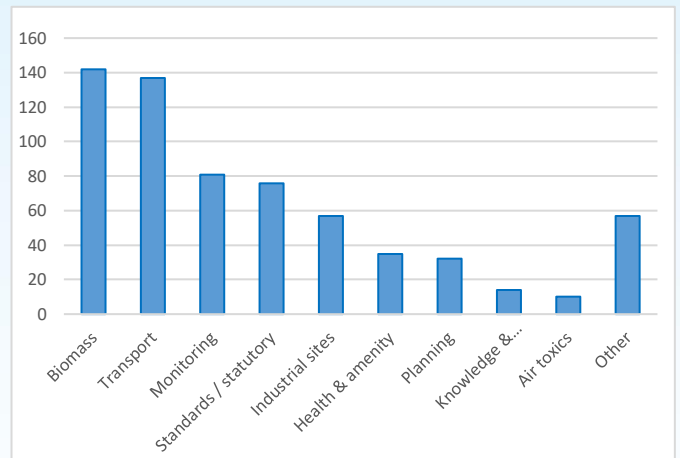
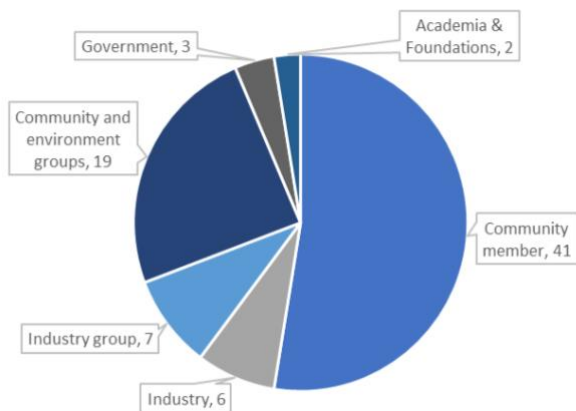
The purpose of this fact sheet is to summarise submissions received on Clean Air for All Victorians – Victoria’s Air Quality Statement (the Statement)

The Statement was released in May 2018 by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Hon Lily D’Ambrosio MP. It included ideas to protect Victoria’s air quality into the future. Victorians were invited to submit their views on these, and any other ideas they had, by 30 June.

78 submissions were received, containing around 650 individual suggestions. This fact sheet summarises the main suggestions, covering key air emission sources including biomass, transport (including shipping) and industrial emissions. Submissions also addressed matters such as emissions monitoring and reporting and using the planning scheme to reduce emissions.

Due to the variety of submitters, there were in some cases inconsistent or opposing views. This summary attempts to reflect that.

Submissions, other than those which submitters requested remain confidential, will be published separately.



Biomass (incl wood smoke) emission reduction ideas

Ideas included:

1. To reduce impacts of smoke from domestic wood heaters, incentivise households to upgrade to more efficient / lower emitting models.
2. Incentivise households to replace wood heaters with less polluting alternatives, where practical.
3. Strengthen wood heater emission standards.
4. Ban or restrict sale or installation of new wood heaters or household ‘burn offs’ in more areas.
5. Do not strengthen wood heater emission standards further, but ensure proper enforcement of current standards.
6. Deliver a comprehensive Government behaviour change program targeting





households, heater and firewood retailers to encourage more efficient and effective burning of wood for heating. Such a program could cover the purchase, installation and/or operation of heaters (such as their pollution impacts, cleaning, use of appropriate fuel and how to reduce running costs) as well as the health impacts of exposure to wood smoke.

7. Make fuel reduction burns, particularly those that meet or exceed minimum scale requirements, a “prescribed” industrial activity and/or have greater restrictions imposed upon select burning activities.
8. Promote / require alternative cropping and plantation residue clearing techniques and technologies (eg. planting tube stock in coupes or use of crop stubble for energy).
9. Consider the value of / mandate adherence to smoke management guidelines for fuel reduction burns.
10. Utilise smoke dispersal modelling and indices to guide the timing and locations of fuel reduction burning, to minimise the risk of acute poor air quality days.
11. Provide greater information to communities and businesses in advance of fuel reduction burning to enable people to adjust daily activities and reduce their exposure to poor air quality.
12. Ensure adequate government resourcing, accountabilities and reporting to reduce pollution from both domestic and fuel reduction burns.

Industrial emission reduction ideas

Ideas included:

1. Establish an ‘exemplar industry’ program to recognise and promote best practice in

commercial and industrial air quality management.

2. Provide government incentives for industry to upgrade and install best practice technologies that have helped to reduce air pollution. The former Environment and Resource Efficiency Plans (EREP) and current Victorian Energy Upgrades program were cited as examples.
3. Provide stronger air quality standards for sites and equipment, as well as the phasing out of certain technologies including combustion electricity generation and non-road diesel engines.
4. Introduce load-based licencing, reflecting the impacts of air pollution and increasing incentives to reduce it.
5. Strategically invest government monies to support growth of Victoria’s clean industry sector - whether through its own procurement and operations, workforce-development initiatives or the facilitation of pilot programs.
6. Direct action by government to address air quality by implementing ‘best practice’ air quality controls for government infrastructure projects, particularly road initiatives, during construction and operation.
7. Cease or restrict the funding and approvals of new or expanded facilities that risk causing ‘significant’ amounts of air pollution.
8. Increase focus on reducing emissions from brown coal-fired power stations.

Transport emission reduction ideas

Ideas included:

1. Focus emission reduction actions in particular on reducing community exposure to particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide from





transport, especially from cars and heavy / freight vehicles.

2. Victorian and local governments work together to ban or restrict the movement of trucks (through, for example, curfews) on local / residential streets, due to emissions from, in particular, diesel-fuelled trucks.
3. Address risks from vehicle idling, particularly near sensitive uses such as schools. Suggestions included banning idling, greater use of technologies that reduce it, and anti-idling (and efficient driving) education (including to parents of school children and to learner and probationary drivers).
4. Government encourage the phase-out of older and/or diesel vehicles and promote the adoption of cleaner (such as non-internal combustion engine) vehicles, potentially through Victoria's vehicle registration system.
5. Invest further in alternate vehicle and fuel technology innovations and the roll-out of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
6. Government advocate nationally for import restrictions upon diesel vehicles and for stronger vehicle fuel emissions standards.
7. Support development of electrification of heavy diesel vehicles.
8. Advocate for adoption of on-board refuelling vapour recovery in new vehicles.
9. Continue progressing national fuel quality standard reforms.
10. Better develop and promote public transport, walking and cycling networks and associated infrastructure, including increased investment.
11. Develop a Victorian clean shipping program. Such a program could promote adoption and use of best practice technologies to minimise nitrous oxide and sulphur emissions, particularly around populated coastal areas.

12. Implement low sulphur emission control areas and onshore power provision to eliminate or reduce ship emissions whilst berthed.

13. Reduce particulate emissions from unsealed roads.

Planning

Ideas included:

1. Use Victoria's planning system to reduce community exposure to air pollution, in particular for sensitive uses (residences, schools, childcare centres). Proposals included:
 2. implement air pollution buffer zones between transport corridors, industrial activities and residential zones
 3. use better urban design to enable safe travel without needing motor vehicles
4. increase vegetation in populated areas
5. invest in "zero emissions" infrastructure
6. Increase EPA's involvement in planning decisions to better inform opportunities to reduce air emissions in new developments.

Monitoring, reporting & information provision

Ideas included:

1. Expand Victoria's air quality monitoring system and capabilities.
2. Include a focus on 'hot spots' locations with chronic poor air quality when expanding the air quality reporting network.
3. Increase monitoring of smoke from fuel reduction burns.
4. Increase reporting and use of collected data.





5. Increase collaborations between government and the community in collecting information on air quality, including the identification of local air pollution incidents.
6. Expand citizen science initiatives to support collection of air quality data and engagement of communities in managing air quality.
7. Increase use of personal monitors to measure air pollution.
8. Increase availability of monitoring data and air quality information to Victorians in a range of formats and via different communications channels, balancing data immediacy, accuracy, detail and usefulness.
9. Use improved monitoring data combined with other data (e.g. satellite information), medical and other scientific knowledge, and forecasting and modelling approaches to inform a more comprehensive approach to improving Victoria's future air quality.
10. Identify the contribution of wood smoke emissions to Melbourne's air pollution levels.

Statutory provisions and similar

Ideas included:

1. Do not progress beyond current environment protection statutory requirements
2. Tighten Victoria's air pollution laws, standards and protocols to reduce air pollution to as low as possible.
3. Ensure consistency of regulations and standards regarding air pollution between jurisdictions and over time, with government to maintain a level playing field for businesses operating across jurisdictions.
4. Increase reporting and use of collected data.

5. Increase collaborations between government and the community in collecting information on air quality, including the identification of local air pollution incidents.
6. Advocate for strengthened national air emissions (including fuel quality) standards and control processes (some submissions also called for compliance with best practice international standards).
7. Ensure the Strategy is developed using objective information and based on evidence of costs and impacts.
8. Balance economic, environmental and social considerations.
9. The importance of consulting with stakeholders when developing the Air Quality Strategy, and recognition of risks of increased costs and burdens on industry.

Next steps

Submissions made on the Statement will be made public on the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's website, except where submitters have requested they remain confidential.

The Victorian Air Quality Strategy will be developed taking into consideration all submissions provided through the consultation period, input from the Victorian Government Air Quality Summit and regional workshops. In developing the Strategy, the Victorian Government will consider suggestions' technical feasibility, expected benefits, costs and cost-effectiveness, with the aim of delivering a package of measures to underpin a clean air future for Victoria.

