

Enquiries: Lisa Paton
File Ref: (E97088/18)



27 June 2018

Air Quality Coordinator
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
PO Box 500
MELBOURNE VIC 8002

RE: VICTORIA'S AIR QUALITY STATEMENT - CITY OF PORT PHILLIP OFFICER SUBMISSION

We welcome the opportunity to provide feedback to the Air Quality Statement. This submission is informed by the City of Port Phillip strategies and Council's commitment to community engagement and advocacy outlined in the *Council Plan (2017-27)* and strategies which can be found on www.portphillip.vic.gov.au.

Council's Act and Adapt: Sustainable Environment Strategy (2018-2028) clearly articulates Council's commitment to addressing environmental challenges that affect the wellbeing of our residents, workers and visitors.

This submission strongly supports the inclusion of the following actions in a new Air Quality Statement:

Improving our understanding of where and when air pollution occurs

- Using a state-wide emissions inventory to support industry and community decision making.

Accurate and credible data is essential to support effective decision making to address both clean air quality and carbon emissions. This submission urges the Victorian Government to collaborate with the Australian Energy Market Operator, to gather and analyse emissions data from energy use on a level sufficiently granular level to support place-based approaches to reducing carbon emissions, which could lead to improved air quality outcomes in areas of electricity generation, such as the LaTrobe Valley and Newport.

- Renewing and expanding air quality monitoring network.

The City of Port Phillip is home to Station Pier and adjacent to the Port of Melbourne. Recreational and freight shipping have an impact on the amenity of residents who are affected by air quality issues from shipping and the resulting truck movements.

Cnr Carlisle St & Brighton Rd,
St Kilda Victoria 3182

Private Bag No 3,
PO St Kilda Victoria 3182,
DX 35706 Baladava VIC

Phone (03) 9209 6777
Facsimile (03) 9536 2722
assist@portphillip.vic.gov.au
www.portphillip.vic.gov.au

Station Pier, Port Melbourne

Members of our community are concerned about the impact of sulphur dioxide emissions from passenger ships docking at Station Pier. The acknowledgement of this specific issue in the Air Quality Statement is welcomed but the proposed 'suitable comprehensive long-term program' is not clearly explained. In addition to monitoring, an ongoing program that includes compliance at agreed shore locations near Station Pier is needed to ensure that the health standards for sulphur dioxide are not exceeded. Members of our community would further welcome sharing this data in an easily understood web format like that used by the City of Sydney.

Truck routes

Council recognises that there will be an increasing number of through freight movements along our roads and through our growing communities. Our draft Integrated Transport Strategy includes an Action "*Partner with Victorian Government and others to minimise the impact of growing freight movements on our community*"

This submission calls on the Environment Protection Agency to expand the air quality monitoring network to include data collection along trucking routes that pass schools in our municipality. (Mac Robertson Girls School, Wesley College, St Kilda Primary School, St Kilda Park Primary School, Port Melbourne Primary School, South Melbourne Primary School and St Mary's Primary School). This data can then be used to plan interventions that reduce the impact of trucking on school children and their families.

Empowering Communities

- Better partnering with communities to identify and address local air quality challenges that affect them, using innovative approaches to minimise pollution sources and emissions. Our Council Plan includes a Priority Outcome "Improving community engagement, advocacy, transparency and governance". Council is committed to working in partnership with our community and supports providing communities with the information they need to take part in decision making that affects them.

EPA Victoria should be transparent in relation to air quality data that it collects and holds, making it readily accessible in a timely manner so that Victorians are able to make informed lifestyle decisions.

Reducing the occurrence of air pollution

- Using the planning system to encourage the development of walkable neighbourhoods to decrease the dependence of communities on motor vehicles and increase participation in healthy behaviours.

Consideration of the potential role of the EPA in planning processes within Victoria to inform the location of various land uses, such as residential areas, schools and childcare centres.

Council's draft Integrated Transport Strategy Move Connect Live includes four Actions to support walkable neighbourhoods. These actions include partnering with the Victorian

Government to plan and fund local transport connections that encourage walking in the Fishermans Bend urban renewal area. Council welcomes any opportunity to have planning amendments considered that will reduce dependence on motor vehicles.

Tackling emerging air quality challenges

- Making sure we can rapidly respond to emerging pollution risks
Expanding the air quality monitoring network, as described above, will only have benefit if the data collected is used to design and deliver effective responses to poor air quality. EPA Victoria should be resourced and required to proactively identify areas that are likely to have air quality issues and to monitor these areas to identify breaches in air quality standards and provide a rapid response.

We look forward to the development of a new Victorian Air Quality Strategy and continuing to work in partnership with the Environment Protection Agency to protect the health and wellbeing of City of Port Phillip residents, workers and tourists as well as Victoria more broadly.

Please contact Lisa Paton, Coordinator Sustainable Programs if you wish to discuss any aspect of this submission.

Yours sincerely



LILI ROSIC
A/General Manager Place Strategy and Development