

## THE NPI AND AIR QUALITY IN GEELONG

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### THE NATIONAL POLLUTANT INVENTORY

The National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) is an information tool developed by all State, Territory and Federal governments that allows Australians to access, over the Internet, clear information about what chemicals are being discharged to our air, land and water.

Larger Australian facilities are required to estimate and report annually their emissions for the NPI. Estimates of emissions from smaller industry, households and everyday activities are also included on the database and are estimated by governments.

The NPI has been developed as a National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM), made by the National Environment Protection Council (NEPC).

NPI data from all States and Territories for the last financial year became available to the public on the NPI website, [www.npi.gov.au](http://www.npi.gov.au), on Thursday 31 January 2002.

### AIR QUALITY IN GEELONG

*A recent newspaper article suggested that "Geelong and Corio are among the state's most polluted sites". This is not the case...*

**Fact:** Air quality in the Geelong region meets national standards almost all of the time.

**Fact:** Recent data from EPA's ambient monitoring stations in Geelong South and Point Henry show Geelong's air quality to be on par or better than that experienced in Melbourne.

In 2000 for example, measurements of carbon monoxide and oxides of nitrogen were lower in Geelong than in Melbourne, while airborne particles were similar to those measured by the Melbourne metropolitan monitoring stations. During this time sulfur dioxide concentrations in Geelong averaged only 3 per cent of the national limit for the protection of human health.

**Fact:** The NPI does not 'rate' towns or regions by amounts of 'pollution'; rather it shows the community annual tonnages produced and the sources of these emissions geographically. This does not relate directly to the quality of the air we breathe. Information about the quality of the air we breathe is continuously monitored by EPA Victoria in relation to national standards and is updated hourly on EPA's website.

**Fact :** Motor vehicles are the dominant contributor to the air emission landscape in the Port Phillip region (which includes Geelong). In the case of a major pollutant such as carbon monoxide, NPI data shows that motor vehicles account for 83 per cent of all emissions in the region.

## WHAT IS EPA DOING ABOUT GEELONG AIR QUALITY?

**Fact:** EPA continuously monitors information about the air we breathe in relation to national standards and provides this to the public on its website ([www.epa.vic.gov.au](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au)), updated by the hour. Two of these monitoring stations are in the Geelong region.

**Fact:** The greater Geelong area has several major industrial premises that have reported to the NPI, all

of which are regulated by an EPA licence. A licence sets limits to ensure emissions from the site fall within standards set for the protection of human health.

**Fact:** All of the major premises have established community liaison committees. These committees have assisted EPA in the development of Environmental Improvement Plans (EIPs) for these premises, which set out targets and timelines for reductions of emissions to the environment.