

ENVIRONMENT **ACT**

**AIR**

**ENVIRONMENT  
PROTECTION POLICY**



ACT GOVERNMENT

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>1. BACKGROUND</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1. Administration consistent with Objects of the Act	2
1.2. Notes on Reading this EPP	2
<b>2. POLICY OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. COMPLIANCE WITH THIS EPP</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4. PRINCIPLES</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5. APPLICATION</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6. POLICIES AND GUIDELINES</b>	<b>5</b>
6.1. Ambient Air Quality	5
6.2. Emission of Air Pollutants	5
6.3. Industrial, including commercial, activities	7
6.3.1. Emission standards	7
6.3.2. Requirements on how an activity is to be undertaken	7
6.3.3. Restrictions on feedstocks	8
6.4. Transportation Activities	9
6.4.1. Urban planning	9
6.4.2. Motor vehicle design and emission controls	10
6.4.3. Fuel composition	11
6.5. Domestic, social, rural and open space management activities	11
6.5.1. Restrictions on the purposes for which fires may be lit	12
6.5.2. Restrictions on substances which may be burnt	12
6.5.3. Restrictions on the way in which a fire is managed	13
6.6. Environmental Management Instruments	14
6.6.1. Environmental protection agreements	14
6.6.2. Environmental authorisations	15
6.6.3. Other environmental management instruments	17
<b>7. MEASUREMENT OF AIR POLLUTANTS</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>8. GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>	<b>18</b>

## **1. Background**

This Air Environment Protection Policy contains information and policies relating to the management of ambient air quality and pollutant emissions to the atmosphere in the ACT. It has been prepared by the Environment Management Authority (the **EMA**) in accordance with Part IV of the *Environment Protection Act 1997*.

The role of Environment Protection Policies (EPPs) and their relationship to the Act and the Regulations is explained in the General EPP. The General EPP also contains other material of relevance to this EPP such as policies on enforcement and access to monitoring data. The two EPPs should be read together.

### **1.1. Administration consistent with Objects of the Act**

Section 3 of the Act requires that the Act be construed and administered consistently with the Objects of the Act. This EPP should be read and applied to best give effect to the Objects of the Act.

### **1.2. Notes on Reading this EPP**

1. Where the EPP refers to a legal requirement, it will give the source of this requirement for reference.
2. Wherever a term is used that is defined in the Act or Regulations, it appears in **bold**. A term defined for the purposes of this EPP only, but not appearing in the Act or Regulations, is underlined.
3. Copies of documents cited in this EPP may be inspected at the following locations:

#### **Environment Protection Policies**

- Environment ACT  
Level 2, Macarthur House  
12 Wattle St  
Lyneham ACT 2602
- ACT Public Libraries
- Environment ACT Homepage:  
<http://www.act.gov.au/environ>

#### **ACT Air and Recreational Water Quality Data**

- Environment ACT  
Level 2, Macarthur House  
12 Wattle St  
Lyneham ACT 2602
  - copies available from:  
ACT Government Analytical Laboratory  
Canberra Hospital  
Hughes ACT 2605
4. Copies of documents cited in this EPP may be purchased at the following locations:

***Australian Standard 4013 - Domestic solid fuel burning appliances - Method for determination of flue gas emission***

- Standards Australia  
Shop 5, Gallery Level  
The Boulevard, Canberra City  
Phone 02 6249 8990

## **2. POLICY OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the ACT Air Quality Policy are, within the limits of its applicability, to ensure air quality in the ACT at least meets national standards for ambient air and to minimise environmental harm from local emissions of air pollutants consistent with the requirements and Objects of the Act.

## **3. COMPLIANCE WITH THIS EPP**

It is important to remember that EPP's are not legally binding - they are statements of policy, guidelines and explanations of legal requirements. If something is legally required, this EPP refers to the source legal document (usually the Act or Regulations). However, the guidelines have been developed to help people comply with the legal requirements of the Act and Regulations and the general environmental duty which requires that people take reasonable and responsible steps to minimise environmental harm.

The role of this EPP and its relationship to other EPP's, the Act and the Regulations is explained in the General EPP.

### **3. PRINCIPLES**

The Air Environment Protection Policy has been developed in accordance with the following principles that in the view of the EMA are derived from, or consistent with, the objects and provisions of the Act and Regulations:

- Regulatory limits should minimise environmental harm to local and ambient air quality while enabling necessary or socially acceptable activities to take place, subject to appropriate controls. Examples of such activities include hazard reduction burning and the use of solid fuel burning appliances for domestic heating.
- The EPP should be consistent with national agreements relating to air quality.
- The EMA should work with other regulatory agencies, such as planning and public health authorities, to ensure an integrated approach is taken to maximising air quality.

### **4. APPLICATION**

This Environment Protection Policy does not apply in the following situations:

- emissions to air from sources in Table 4.1 below (these sources are excluded by section 8 of the Act); and
- smoking of a cigar, cigarette or pipe (these sources are excluded by Regulation 4).

<b>Source</b>	<b>Applicable Legislation</b>
Aircraft	<i>Commonwealth Air Services Act 1995</i> <i>Air Navigation Act 1920</i>

Motor vehicles being driven on a public street, unless the motor vehicle is participating in a reliability trial or speed test and has a permit issued under section 217 of the <i>Motor Traffic Act 1936</i> exempting it from the provisions of that Act.	<i>ACT Motor Traffic Act 1936</i>
Train	n/a

Table 4.1 Sources not subject to this Environment Protection Policy

## 5. POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

The Air EPP has the dual purpose of providing ambient air quality which meets national standards and minimising the risk to the community from localised emissions of air pollutants.

### 5.1. Ambient Air Quality

Ambient air quality standards are being developed nationally under the Ambient Air Quality National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM), made under the *National Environment Protection Council Act 1994*. Standards are being developed under this NEPM for carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, ozone, lead and particles. By participating in the making of the NEPM, the ACT has committed itself to meeting these standards.

Ambient air quality has been monitored in the ACT for some time and, when the NEPM comes into effect, will be monitored in accordance with the requirements of the NEPM. Based on results of the monitoring to date and policies already being implemented (as described in this EPP), it is expected that the ACT will comply with the NEPM standards.

### 5.2. Emission of Air Pollutants

Emissions of air pollutants is regulated to control the local **environmental harm** caused by such emissions and to reduce the contribution such emissions make to reduced ambient air quality.

In this policy, activities are divided into three categories:

- industrial, including commercial, activities;
- transportation activities; and
- domestic, social, rural and open space management activities.

The major sources of emissions in the ACT are transportation and fires from non-industrial activities. More detailed information about sources of air pollution in the ACT will become available following the implementation of the National Pollutant Inventory NEPM.

The National Pollutant Inventory NEPM was made by the National Environment Protection Council on 27 February 1998 and will be progressively implemented over three years commencing on 1 July 1998. The National Pollutant Inventory is a geographically-based database of pollutant emissions to the environment, including data on emissions from larger facilities and estimates of emissions from smaller facilities, vehicles and community activities.

Data obtained from the National Pollutant Inventory will be used to review this EPP. In particular, the data will be used to identify any localised **environmental harm** being caused by emissions from activities using hazardous chemicals.

Different strategies are used to control emissions, depending on the nature of the activity causing the emission. The strategies used are:

- restricting the purposes for which the activity may be undertaken;
- restricting the feedstocks which may be used in undertaking the activity;
- requiring the activity to be undertaken in a particular way; and
- requiring emissions from the activity to meet specified standards.

Policies relating to emissions are dealt with in more detail below.

### 5.3. Industrial, including commercial, activities

Emissions from these activities are of two types - emissions through a chimney and fugitive emissions.

Where emissions occur at an industrial facility from an activity which is incidental to the main activity being undertaken at the facility, the general conditions applying to the incidental activity are applicable. For example, if a solid fuel heater is used to heat a restaurant, the requirements applying to domestic solid fuel heaters are applicable.

The following strategies are used to minimise **environmental harm** from industrial activities:

#### 5.3.1. Emission standards

Maximum concentration limits are placed on certain substances being emitted from chimneys. These substances and concentrations are listed in the *National guidelines for control of emission of air pollutants from new stationary sources 1985 (national emission guidelines)*, as adopted in the Regulations. Under Regulation 5, the emission of one of these substances through a chimney at a concentration in excess of that specified is deemed to cause **environmental harm** under section 5 of the Act.

The standards specified for smoke and soot emissions in the **national emission guidelines** may be exceeded for short periods, subject to certain conditions, for the purposes of lighting a boiler or incinerator from cold or blowing the tubes of a boiler. The conditions which must be complied with are listed in Regulation 6.

#### 5.3.2. Requirements on how an activity is to be undertaken

In many cases, emissions can be minimised through the use of appropriate technology and ensuring equipment is properly maintained and operated in accordance with its design parameters. Fugitive emissions, in particular, can be minimised in this way but the approach is also valid for reducing emissions through chimneys.

For industrial emissions not specifically regulated (i.e. either emission through a chimney of pollutants not covered by the **national emission guidelines** or fugitive emissions), the **general environmental duty**

still applies. Under Part III of the Act, that duty requires a person to take “such steps as are practicable and reasonable to prevent or minimise **environmental harm** or **environmental nuisance** caused, or likely to be caused, by an activity conducted by that person.”

To comply with the **general environmental duty**, the **EMA** expects that a person undertaking an industrial activity would:

- have installed, or be in the process of installing, pollution control equipment at least of a standard matching general industry practice elsewhere in Australia;
- properly maintain and use any pollution control equipment and any other equipment, the condition or use of which impacts on the level of pollutants emitted;
- ensure that any person involved in undertaking the activity (e.g. employees, contractors) is competent to do so; and
- appropriate systems and procedures are in place to minimise the risk of causing **environmental harm**.

In the case of Class A or Class B activities listed in Schedule 1 of the Act, specific conditions relating to the above may be included in the conditions of an **environmental authorisation** or an **environmental protection agreement**. Persons undertaking other industrial activities who are unsure as to whether they are complying with the **general environmental duty** are encouraged to seek the advice of the **EMA**. In some cases, the use of other environmental management instruments, such as an **environmental audit** or an **environmental improvement plan**, may be appropriate. Policies on the use of these and other environmental management instruments are in 5.6 of this EPP.

### **5.3.3. Restrictions on feedstocks**

Restrictions are placed on the fuels and wastes which can be burnt in Part IV of Schedule 2 of the Act (petrol), clause 3 of Schedule 2 of the Act and Regulation 9 (fuel oil) and Regulation 11 (plastics, wood, chemicals and wastes).

Under Regulation 9, the sulfur content of fuel oil is restricted to minimise emissions of sulfur dioxide.

Part IV of Schedule 2 of the Act and Regulation 11 are discussed in more detail in 5.4 and 5.5 of this EPP respectively.

## **5.4. Transportation Activities**

Emissions from motor vehicles are the major source of air pollution in the ACT. The **environmental harm** caused by motor vehicles is managed through urban planning, motor vehicle design and emission controls and fuel composition. These are discussed in more detail below.

The contribution of aircraft and power boats to air pollution is minor compared to that of land transport. Aircraft which are subject to Commonwealth legislation are not subject to the Act (section 8 of the Act). There are no specific provisions in the Act applying to other aircraft and motor boats but the general requirements of the Act, including the requirement to comply with the **general environmental duty**, applies.

### **5.4.1. Urban planning**

Good urban planning has a major impact on reducing the **environmental harm** caused by motor vehicle emissions by:

- making public transport viable;
- encouraging the use of alternative modes of transport, such as bicycles; and
- providing a road system which minimises traffic delays.

The **EMA** will work closely with Planning and Land Management to ensure that minimising **environmental harm** from motor vehicle emissions continues to be a major consideration in planning decisions.

Formal links with the planning process have been established under Section 6 of the *Environment Protection (Consequential Provisions) Act 1997* which amends Section 229 of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*. Under this section, Planning and Land Management (or a delegate of the Minister for Planning) is required to notify the EMA of development applications that require an authorisation

under the Environment Protection Act or otherwise have the potential to cause serious or material environmental harm. This item allows the EMA to comment on the development application and, as appropriate, to raise issues directly with the person proposing the development.

#### **5.4.2. Motor vehicle design and emission controls**

Major improvements in vehicle design in recent years have helped to contain the **environmental harm** caused by motor vehicle emissions. Continued improvements to vehicle design rules are being negotiated nationally. The **EMA** contributes to these where appropriate through the Motor Vehicle Environment Committee (MVEC), established under a Memorandum of Understanding between the National Environment Protection Council and the National Road Transport Commission, and through consultation with other relevant agencies.

Emissions from motor vehicles being driven on public streets are subject to the *Motor Traffic Act 1936* except when taking part in reliability trials or speed tests for which a permit under the Motor Traffic Act has been issued. When emissions from a motor vehicle are subject to the Motor Traffic Act, they are not covered by the Environment Protection Act (section 8 of the Act). Vehicles covered by the Motor Traffic Act are subject to random in-service testing.

Where the Motor Traffic Act does not apply, emissions from the vehicle are subject to the Environment Protection Act. Under these circumstances, the vehicle must comply with the emission requirements of the Motor Traffic Act and the general environmental duty.

Examples of where the **EMA** would consider a person not to have complied with their general environmental duty are:

- warming up a motor vehicle for longer than is necessary; or
- warming up a motor vehicle where the vehicle is located in a position such that excessive exhaust fumes enter a neighbour's house.

### **5.4.3. Fuel composition**

Fuel composition is a major determinant in the **environmental harm** caused by motor vehicle emissions. The introduction of unleaded petrol has resulted in dramatic decreases in ambient lead levels in the atmosphere.

Part IV of Schedule 2 of the Act includes provisions regulating the composition and sale of petrol.

## **5.5. Domestic, social, rural and open space management activities**

The main air pollutants produced by these activities are smoke and fumes from fires, spray and fumes from the use of chemicals, and dust.

For fires other than those indoors or in an incinerator for which an environmental authorisation has been issued, the types of emissions are controlled by restrictions on the substances which may be burnt while the amount of emissions is controlled by restrictions on the purposes for which a fire may be lit. Emissions from fires in an incinerator are controlled by conditions of an **environmental authorisation** which will include restrictions on substances which may be incinerated. Emissions from indoor fires are controlled by restrictions on the substances which may be burnt and the way in which the fire is managed. Emissions from fires are dealt with in more detail below.

A person undertaking an activity which may generate dust or chemical spray or fumes is required to meet the general environmental duty. Examples where the **EMA** may consider a person undertaking such an activity not to have met their general environmental duty are:

- use of spray paint in a manner which causes the paint spray to drift onto a neighbour's property or public land;
- use of organic solvents resulting in significant vapour emissions onto a neighbour's property or public land.

In addition to the general environmental duty, other controls apply to the use of certain substances under the hazardous materials regulations which are aimed at least in part at minimising emissions to air. These are explained in detail in the Hazardous Materials EPP.

### **5.5.1. Restrictions on the purposes for which fires may be lit**

Outdoor fires are only permitted in accordance with an **environmental authorisation** or as permitted under Regulation 12 in accordance with conditions listed in Schedule 1 of the Regulations.

The circumstances under which **environmental authorisations** will be issued for outdoor fires are described in 5.6.2 of this EPP.

The fires permitted under Regulation 12 are for purposes which are generally acceptable to the broad community. These are:

- Fires for cooking food or heating drinks.
- Fires for heating. If the fire is in a built up area it must be in a brazier or constructed fireplace.
- Fires for a display, ceremony, celebration or similar activity.

On a residential lease such a fire is only permitted during the period commencing on the Saturday nine days before the Queen's birthday public holiday and ending on the Sunday six days after that public holiday.

On other leased land or on unleased land display, ceremony, celebration fires must be authorised by the Chief Fire Control Officer or the Fire Commissioner.

- Providing instruction in fire fighting where authorised by the Chief Fire Control Officer or the Fire Commissioner.
- Burning plant matter in the course of primary production outside the built up area, where the built-up area is defined by the *Bushfire Act 1936*.

Restrictions are not placed on the purpose for which indoor fires may be lit, but restrictions do apply to the substances which can be burnt ( 6.5.2 of this EPP) and the way in which the fire is managed ( 6.5.3 of this EPP).

### **5.5.2. Restrictions on substances which may be burnt**

Under Regulation 11, specified substances may not be burnt except in an incinerator authorised (under the conditions of an **environmental authorisation**) to burn those substances.

The substances which may not be burnt are:

- synthetic plastics or other synthetic polymers; wood that is painted, chemically treated or contaminated with chemicals; and chemicals other than those recommended by the manufacturer as a fuel. The ban on burning these substances has been imposed because of the risk of toxic emissions (e.g. fumes from burning PVC plastic).
- unseasoned wood. Wood which is burnt as a fuel should be properly seasoned to minimise smoke emissions.
- wastes. Recycling and, where this is not possible, disposal to landfill, are considered the most appropriate forms of disposal for general wastes. Certain types of waste which are not suitable for recycling or landfill, such as clinical waste, may be incinerated at an authorised facility. The ban on incineration of domestic waste does not apply to wastes generated on rural properties as no garbage collection service is available. Rural leaseholders are thus able to burn domestic waste generated on their own property.

**NOTE: The ban on burning waste under Regulation 11 means that backyard burning of garden or other waste in urban areas is prohibited. This ban includes burning waste in a backyard incinerator.**

### **5.5.3. Restrictions on the way in which a fire is managed**

Under Regulation 14, a person must take “such steps as are practicable and reasonable to prevent or minimise the **environmental harm** caused, or likely to be caused, by the emission of pollutants into the air from the fire.”

With respect to solid fuel burning equipment, the **EMA** considers the following steps to be practicable and reasonable in minimising emissions:

- kindling, fire starters, paper and the like should be used to start a fire, rather than large pieces of wood, so that the fire reaches a high temperature as quickly as possible (low temperature burning produces more smoke);

- when adding larger pieces of wood to the fire, the air control should be kept fully open until the wood catches fire fully;
- sufficient air flow should be maintained to keep the fire burning brightly, as insufficient air causes incomplete combustion resulting in excessive smoke. In the case of older equipment which does not comply with Australian Standard AS 4013, the equipment should not be damped right down as this may result in insufficient air flow and excessive smoke; and
- wood should be stacked in the fire box to allow adequate air flow.

Restrictions are also placed on the types of solid fuel burning equipment which can be sold in the ACT. Clauses 4 and 5 of Schedule 2 of the Act require that solid fuel burning equipment sold in the ACT must comply with AS 4013, *Domestic solid fuel burning appliances - Method for determination of flue gas emission*, and neither the equipment nor compliance plate can be tampered with. Equipment purchased prior to the introduction of the requirement for compliance with AS 4013 may continue to be used provided that the steps outlined above are followed.

## **5.6. Environmental Management Instruments**

The Act creates a number of environmental management instruments. An explanation and general policies on the use of these instruments are included in the General EPP. The application of these instruments to activities with the potential to emit pollutants into the atmosphere is described below.

### **5.6.1. Environmental protection agreements**

**Environmental protection agreements** are formal, but non-contractual agreements between the **EMA** and businesses (Part VII of the Act).

A person undertaking an activity listed as a Class B activity in Schedule 1 of the Act may enter into an agreement with the **EMA** as an alternative to obtaining an **environmental authorisation** (section 42 of the Act).

Several Class B activities have the potential to cause air pollution, especially through dust emission. Environment Protection Agreements for these activities will need to include measures to be taken to minimise these emissions. Where appropriate, industry associations are encouraged to develop and submit for accreditation (under Part V of the Act) codes of practice which include measures to minimise air pollution.

The **EMA** encourages people undertaking activities which do not require an authorisation or agreement but where there is potential to cause air pollution to enter into an agreement with the **EMA**.

Activities where chemicals are used and there is potential for vapours and sprays to be released into the atmosphere are situations where an agreement may be beneficial. Examples of such activities include spray painting, fibreglass moulding and dry cleaning. The **EMA** is keen to enter into agreements with businesses undertaking these and similar activities.

#### **5.6.2. Environmental authorisations**

**Environmental authorisations** are a form of licence to conduct an activity which has a significant potential to cause **environmental harm**. (Part VIII of the Act).

Activities listed as Class A activities in Schedule 1 of the Act are required to obtain an **environmental authorisation**. Activities listed as Class B activities in Schedule 1 of the Act are required to obtain an **environmental authorisation** if an **environmental protection agreement** is not reached with the **EMA**. (section 42 of the Act).

While many Class A activities require an **environmental authorisation** in part because of their potential to cause air pollution, the following activities require **environmental authorisations** primarily because of their air polluting potential:

- commercial incineration activities (where the incineration activity involves the incineration of hazardous wastes, policies relating to waste acceptance are outlined in the Hazardous Materials EPP);
- crematoria;

- generation of electricity using a generator which is classified as a scheduled generating unit under clause 2.2.2 of the National Electricity Code; and
- fires for hazard reduction, land clearing and ecological purposes.

For incineration, crematoria and electricity generation, the conditions of the authorisation will be developed individually taking into account the particular circumstances of the activity, in accordance with the following principles:

- where nationally agreed codes of practice have been developed, these will form the basis of authorisations except where such codes are not consistent with the objectives and principles of the Act;
- where codes of practice do not cover all aspects of the activity which are of environmental concern, additional conditions covering these aspects will be included in the **environmental authorisation**;
- activities will be expected to at least meet the standards of environmental performance generally applying to similar activities elsewhere in Australia; and
- where a facility requires an **environmental authorisation** and is required to report under the National Pollutant Inventory, the reporting requirements under both will, as far as practicable, be compatible.

**Environmental authorisations** for fires for hazard reduction, land clearing and ecological purposes will be issued in accordance with the following principles:

- approval for the fire will be required from:
  - the Fire Commissioner for fires for hazard reduction in the built-up area;
  - the Chief Fire Officer for fires outside the built-up area;
- for fires for ecological purposes, the **EMA** will consult with the Conservator of Flora and Fauna;
- the fires will not be lit during unfavourable weather conditions; and

- appropriate steps will be taken to minimise **environmental harm** caused by smoke from the fire.

The granting of authorisations for fires for hazard reduction, land clearing and ecological purposes is of a routine nature and the **EMA** will recommend to the Minister that such authorisations be exempted under Section 48 of the Act from the requirement for public consultation.

Policies relating to Class B activities with the potential to emit air pollutants are covered in section 5.6.1 of this EPP.

The **EMA** has the power to require a person undertaking or intending to undertake an activity, that it is not a Class A or Class B activity, to obtain an authorisation to undertake that activity (section 43 of the Act). The **EMA** may only require such an authorisation where **serious** or **material environmental harm** has occurred, is occurring or may occur.

The **EMA** will give serious consideration to exercising this power in relation to activities with the potential to cause air pollution in the following circumstances:

- a proposed activity is not currently undertaken in the ACT and has considerable potential to cause air pollution (e.g. mineral processing);
- an activity is emitting pollutants in excess of standards specified in the Regulations, cannot readily be made to comply with those standards and is of net benefit to the community. An environmental improvement plan outlining steps to be taken to reduce emissions to meet the standard will be required by the **EMA** as a condition of issuing the **environmental authorisation**;
- the person undertaking an activity has a continuing poor environmental record;

### **5.6.3. Other environmental management instruments**

Other environmental management instruments which may be used to manage activities which are or may cause air pollution are:

- an **environmental improvement plan**, which is a formal plan under Part IX Division 1 of the Act to

improve the environmental performance of an activity and achieve best environmental practice over time.

- an **environmental audit**, which is an assessment of an activity to identify causes of **environmental harm** or breaches of the Act and to determine the need for any change in management practices to reduce environmental impact (Part IX, Division 2 of the Act); and
- an **environment protection order**, which is an instrument issued by the **EMA** under section 125 of the Act where the **EMA** is satisfied that the person has breached the Act or an authorisation condition.
- an **emergency plan**, which is a plan for dealing with the foreseeable but unplanned entry into the environment of unauthorised pollutants, where that may cause serious or material **environmental harm** (Section 80 of the Act).
- a **financial assurance**, which is provided to the **EMA** by an authorisation holder where there is a likelihood that action will be required to remedy **environmental harm** caused by the authorised activity (Section 88 of the Act).

Any use of these instruments will be in accordance with the policies outlined in the General EPP.

## 6. Measurement of Air Pollutants

For the purpose of demonstrating compliance or otherwise with the Regulations or conditions of an environmental authorisation, sampling and analysis of air pollutants must be undertaken in accordance with Regulation 40.

## 7. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The definitions of the terms listed in this Glossary are provided to assist in reading this **EPP**. For the formal legal definition of the terms marked with an asterisk (\*), refer to Section 4 of the Act and for those marked with a ♦, refer to Regulation 3.

Term	Definition
EMA*	Environment Management Authority - a statutory office established under Part II of the Act to administer the Act

## AIR ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION POLICY

emergency plan*	a plan to deal with the foreseeable but unplanned entry into the environment of unauthorised pollutants
environmental authorisation*	a form of licence to conduct an activity which has a significant potential to cause environmental harm
environmental harm*	any impact on the environment as a result of human activity that has the effect of degrading the environment (whether temporarily or permanently)
environmental nuisance*	an unreasonable interference with the enjoyment by the public, a section of the public, or a person of a place caused or likely to be caused by dust, fumes, light, noise odour, smoke or an unhealthy, unsightly or otherwise offensive condition because of pollution
environmental protection agreement*	a formal, but non-contractual, agreement between the EMA and a business to give effect to the objects of the Act
environment protection order*	an instrument, issued by the EMA where the EMA is satisfied that a person has breached the Act or an authorisation condition, specifying that certain actions be or not be taken
EPP*	Environment Protection Policy
feedstocks	materials used as inputs to processes, especially, in the case of this EPP, combustion processes
financial assurance*	a financial assurance (e.g. bank guarantee, bond) provided to the EMA by an authorisation holder where there is a likelihood that action will be required to remedy environmental harm caused by the authorised activity
fugitive emissions	emissions other than through a chimney, including, for example, leaks from plant and equipment and dust
National Environment Protection Council	a council of Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers established under complementary legislation (the <i>National Environment Protection Act 1994</i> in the ACT) to make and monitor the implementation of NEPMs
national emission guidelines ♦	<i>National guidelines for control of emission of air pollutants from new stationary sources 1985</i>
National Pollutant Inventory	a geographically-based database of pollutant emissions to the environment
NEPM	National Environment Protection Measure - a broad framework-setting statutory instrument defined in the <i>National Environment Protection Act 1994</i> which outlines agreed national objectives for protecting particular aspects of the environment
Planning and Land Management	Planning and Land Management Group of the ACT Department of Urban Services