

Air quality monitoring stations

Fact sheet

Summer 2018



Air quality monitoring station

Roads and Maritime installs ambient air quality monitoring stations to help identify environmental impacts of a proposed motorway project. A project will not be approved for development until it can be demonstrated that potential impacts have been acceptably mitigated.

What does their location mean?

The location of an air quality monitoring station does not indicate a possible alignment for the project or the location of ventilation facilities. The monitoring is generally situated somewhere within or near the proposed project corridor.

What do they do?

Air quality monitoring stations measure concentrations of air pollutants such as carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide, as well as ozone and particulate matter within the air. They also monitor weather conditions, including temperature, wind direction and wind speed.

Monitoring operates 24 hours per day, seven days per week and must meet strict operational guidelines that are set out in Australian Standards. Personnel visit the stations about twice a month during weekdays to test and calibrate the equipment and ensure the data they collect is accurate. The operation of monitoring stations includes some mechanical noise from fans and pumps. This noise is not intrusive, and is generally less than local traffic noise.

What happens with the data?

The data that an air quality monitoring station collects is used in preparation of the proposed project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which includes an air quality assessment. This step helps demonstrate that the project will comply with all of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) requirements. An EIS identifies potential environmental and social impacts of a project such as noise, traffic, dust, visual amenity, air quality and community impacts during its construction and operation. Mitigation measures are proposed to minimise these impacts.

The EIS is publicly exhibited so members of the community can make submissions on all aspects of the project, including air quality.



Monitoring equipment collecting data



Data collation for reporting

Project approval process

The DP&E will consider all information presented in the EIS for the project and issues raised in submissions. It is also reviewed by NSW Health, the EPA, other relevant agencies and expert technical peer reviewers. The NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer also commissions international experts to review the air quality assessment.

Roads and Maritime is required to respond to issues raised by agencies and the public before the DP&E makes a recommendation to the Minister for Planning on whether to approve the project.

The DP&E's recommendation is provided in a detailed Secretary's Environmental Assessment Report which includes advice from other agencies and peer reviewers. This report details whether the potential impacts of the project have been appropriately mitigated and includes draft approval conditions for the Minister for Planning's consideration. The Minister then decides whether or not to approve the project and with what conditions.

Further reading

Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants (2016)

<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/air/appmethods.htm>

<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/resources/air/ammodelling05361.pdf>

Frequently asked questions about air monitoring

<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/air/faqamsampling.htm>



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team on **1800 789 297**. The interpreter will then help you with translation.

For more information



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Customer feedback

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