

## Air quality monitoring stations Summer 2019

We install ambient air quality monitoring stations to help us identify environmental impacts of a proposed motorway project. A project will not be approved until we can demonstrate 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 a day, seven days a week and must meet strict operational guidelines set out in Australian Standards. We have personnel visit the stations about twice a month during the week 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 collected is used to prepare an air quality assessment for the proposed project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This step helps demonstrate the project will comply with all of the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) requirements.

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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 you can make submissions on all aspects of the project, including air quality.



Monitoring equipment collecting data



Data collation for reporting

## Project approval process

DPIE 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.

As part of stronger measures introduced by the NSW Government in 2018 additional checks are required as part of the EIS process. They involve:

- The Advisory Committee on Tunnel Air Quality (ACTAQ) coordinating a scientific review of the project's air emissions from ventilation facilities
- The NSW Chief Health Officer releasing a statement on the potential health impacts of emissions from tunnel ventilation facilities.

We are required to respond to issues raised by agencies and the public before DPIE makes a recommendation to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces on whether to approve the project.

DPIE'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 and Public Spaces'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)

[www.epa.nsw.gov.au/air/appmethods.htm](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/air/appmethods.htm)

[www.epa.nsw.gov.au/resources/air/ammodelling05361.pdf](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/resources/air/ammodelling05361.pdf)

## For more information



[nswroads.work/airquality](http://nswroads.work/airquality)



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