

The NSW/ACT Branch Committee of the Clean Air Society of Australia and New Zealand (CASANZ) welcomes this opportunity to provide a submission on the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) *Review of Load-based Licencing Scheme*. CASANZ is a non-government, non-profit organisation that brings together professionals working across a broad range of air quality management fields. Formed in 1966, the Society's members have been intimately involved with the evolving management of air quality in Australia and New Zealand.

**General:** We support the principle of 'polluter pays' as a regulatory mechanism to drive cleaner production and reduce emissions to air, welcome the review into the effectiveness of LBL and support the LBL review process outlined in Figure 1-1 of the Issues Paper. Revisions to the LBL mechanism which specifically enhance the following aspects are supported:

- Responsiveness of the scheme to new and emerging air pollutants and sources.
- Robustness of the evidence base informing the LBL process; notably the rigour of the source and emissions data relied upon.
- Basis for assigning risk, with increased emphasis on air pollutants and sources that pose the greatest risk taking into account exposure potentials and risks due to secondary air pollutants accounted for.
- Robust monitoring and evaluation framework to demonstrate the efficiency and the effectiveness of the mechanism at regular intervals.

**Assessable pollutants:** We support bringing PM<sub>2.5</sub> into the LBL and more generally, with the focus of the review to increase the emphasis on particles is supported. We recommend that the terminology for particulate matter (PM) under the LBL be updated, consistent with contemporary references to 'coarse' and 'fine' inhalable PM, for example based on health-based ambient air quality standards set for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>. EPA's consideration of defining coarse particles as PM<sub>2.5-10</sub> should consider how easy or accurate it is for emissions to be subsequently reported as fine and coarse, either through emissions estimation techniques or direct measurement. Provided these metrics can be measured / estimated accurately CASANZ supports this change in definition of particle air pollution. Some guidance to licence holders may be required to avoid over-reporting of the coarse fraction as all PM<sub>10</sub>.

**Critical zones:** We support the concept of critical zones within the LBL, as a mechanism to reduce cumulative impacts, reduce emissions in constrained airsheds and / or reduce human exposure to key pollutants such as PM<sub>2.5</sub>. We supports the concept of different pollutant ranking in critical zones, which may provide incentives for implementation of Best Available Technology (BAT) in constrained airsheds. We note, however, that in the case of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, which is also a regional scale pollutant, specific weighting for local sources of emissions within critical zones may be less effective than for other pollutants. Similarly, the concept of charging higher fees for emission sources located close to densely populated areas may not be as effective for regional pollutants such as PM<sub>2.5</sub> from which human exposure is not necessarily limited to just local sources of emissions. We recommend due consideration is given to regional scale pollutants and effects, when defining critical zones and weightings. Linking critical zones to non-attainment of an environmental standard provides for flexibility as zones change, for examples new areas that deteriorate may be captured while existing management zones may fall out due to improvements in air quality.

**Coverage of scheduled activities.** We support the extension of the LBL scheme to include other EPA licenced facilities, such as mining, or extend the coverage so that the scheme better aligns with the EPA priority of reducing particle pollution. We believe that there are sufficiently robust emissions estimation techniques to include more fugitive emission sources in the scheme.

The NSW/ACT Branch of CASANZ would welcome the opportunity to participate further in the LBL review process, and look forward to receiving further information on the process from the EPA.

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