



Mark Speakman
Minister for the Environment

MEDIA RELEASE

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10-YEAR PLAN FOR IMPROVED AIR QUALITY

NSW Environment Minister Mark Speakman is urging everyone to have their say on a proposed 10-year plan aimed at improving air quality across the state.

The *Clean Air for NSW* consultation paper sets out the NSW Government's priority areas for air quality improvement and outlines how industry, government, community groups and residents can work together to benefit the environment.

"NSW can be pleased with its air quality and its record on clean air action. The current government championed the campaign to strengthen the national standards for airborne fine particles and as a result NSW and Australia have probably the toughest standards for fine particles in the world," Mr Speakman said.

"Current air quality in NSW rates well by international standards, but as our population grows and our infrastructure and industry projects grow, the way we manage air pollution will need to improve so we can continue to breathe the cleanest air possible."

Some priority actions identified in the *Clean Air for NSW* paper include:

- A review of air quality monitoring networks to improve understanding of pollution issues.
- Improved forecasting and advice during hazard reduction burning.
- Hosting a Clean Air Summit in Sydney in six months to allow stakeholders the opportunity to provide direct feedback on *Clean Air for NSW*.

Associate Professor Dr Geoff Morgan from the School of Public Health at Sydney University said there was clear evidence linking air quality to adverse health impacts.

"Government agencies need to work together with researchers, communities and industry to reduce air pollution so these adverse health impacts don't increase, especially as the population increases," Dr Morgan said.

Public submissions are open until Friday, 20 January 2017. The NSW EPA will manage the consultation process. Read the consultation paper and have your say at the EPA website: <https://engage.environment.nsw.gov.au/EPAconsult/>