



# Australasian College for Emergency Medicine

34 Jeffcott Street West Melbourne Victoria 3003, Australia  
+61 3 9320 0444 | [admin@acem.org.au](mailto:admin@acem.org.au) | ABN 76 009 090 715

7 August 2019

**Mr Adam Carlon, NEPC Executive Officer**  
National Environmental Protection Council  
Department of the Environment and Energy  
Canberra ACT 2601

[nepc@environment.gov.au](mailto:nepc@environment.gov.au)

Dear Mr Carlon,

The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (the College, ACEM) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Ambient Air Quality National Environmental Protection Measure (AAQ NEPM).

ACEM is the peak body for emergency medicine and has a vital interest in ensuring the highest standards of emergency medical care for all patients. ACEM is responsible for the training and ongoing education of emergency physicians and the advancement of professional standards in emergency medicine in Australia and New Zealand.

Overall, ACEM is supportive of revising and updating the AAQ NEPM standards to align with international standards, guidelines and evidence. In particular, ACEM supports Recommendation 1 which establishes the protection of human health and the minimisation of risk to environmental pollutants as a core outcome of these revised standards. The College is also supportive of an exposure reduction framework and targets for priority pollutants under the AAQ NEPM (Recommendation 2).

ACEM is unable to comment on the specifics of the other recommendations. However, we note the consideration of the impact of poor air quality on respiratory and cardiovascular disease and associated Emergency Department (ED) presentations throughout the Impact Statement.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to this review. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Freya Saich, ACEM Policy Officer on 03 9230 0444 or [Freya.Saich@acem.org.au](mailto:Freya.Saich@acem.org.au).

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Simon Judkins**  
President  
Australasian College for Emergency Medicine

**Dr Lai Heng Foong**  
Chair, Public Health and Disaster Committee  
Australasian College for Emergency Medicine