

What is the NPI?

The National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) is an internet database that gives information on the types, amounts and effects of pollutants being emitted to the environment.

It's comprehensive, free, easy to use, and can help you keep an eye on pollution.

How does the NPI work?

The NPI reports on 90 substances identified as important because of their health and environmental effects. From your suburban dry cleaner to your local hospital, from beer manufacturers to aluminium smelters – any facility that uses specified amounts of the 90 substances must report to the NPI.

As well as industrial and commercial sources, other sources (or *diffuse sources*) such as motor vehicles and cigarette smoke in airsheds and agriculture in water catchments are provided. Facilities estimate their own emissions every year and report to states and territories. Diffuse sources are estimated less frequently by state and territory governments.



What can the NPI do for me?

The NPI is your opportunity to find out about the nature and location of emissions to our environment.

It allows you to identify major sources of pollution, recognise facilities actively reducing their environmental impact and those not doing the best they can.

The NPI can give you:

- a list of pollutants and their sources in your postcode;
- access to information about the 90 NPI substances;
- a map showing the facilities in your area;
- information about individual facilities; and
- contact details and links to facility reports.

How does the NPI help protect our environment?

Not only is the NPI a great information resource for the community but it's also an environment management tool for state and territory government agencies who regulate emissions of pollutants into the environment.

The NPI gives Australians a clearer picture of what pollutants are being emitted in their neighbourhoods.

Knowing where the sources of emissions are and whether they are emitted to air, water or land is the first step in assessing the nature of pollution in Australia.

The NPI helps everyone to keep an eye on pollution.



So what's going on in my street?

A quick search of the NPI will reveal that motor vehicles are the biggest source of a number of pollutants in urban areas.

Motor vehicles emit 34 out of the 90 substances listed by the NPI. Benzene, carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds are just a few.

People living near freeways are likely to be exposed to higher levels of these pollutants than people living in other areas.

Other common sources of pollutants in your neighbourhood might include burning wood for heating, lawnmowers and architectural surface coatings, such as paints and varnishes.

It's something to think about next time you have the choice between driving your car or taking the opportunity for some healthy exercise and walking to your local shops.

For further information about reducing your reliance on motor vehicles and making smart choices about other forms of transport visit www.travelsmart.gov.au



How do I find out more about pollution?

Your State Environment Agency will be able to provide you with further information on pollution as will the Australian Government Department of Environment and Heritage's website at www.deh.gov.au. Here you can access national programs to improve air and water quality.

For information specifically about the NPI visit www.npi.gov.au or contact an NPI officer from the details below. The NPI is a result of cooperation between the Australian Government and the states and territories.

Australian Government	Phone: 1800 657 945
Australian Capital Territory	Phone: (02) 6207 9777
New South Wales	Phone: 131 555
Northern Territory	Phone: (08) 8924 4139
Queensland	Phone: (07) 3225 1060
South Australia	Phone: (08) 8204 9095
Tasmania	Phone: (03) 6233 6433
Victoria	Phone: (03) 9695 2511
Western Australia	Phone: (08) 9278 0635

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Australian Government
**Department of the Environment
and Heritage**

National Pollutant Inventory



Keeping an eye
on pollution



www.npi.gov.au