



**Minister for Environment; Disability Services
Deputy Leader of the Legislative Council**

Our Ref: 62-05527

Mr John Harris
elanjae76@yahoo.com.au

Dear Mr Harris

Thank you for your correspondence, received in this office on 27 December 2017, regarding the review of standards under the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure (AAQ NEPM).

The Western Australian McGowan Labor Government recognises the importance of clean air that supports healthy communities and environments. Since coming to office in March 2017, the Government has worked with other Australian jurisdictions to address a number of long standing air quality priorities, as well as supporting the delivery of initiatives through the National Clean Air Agreement.

The review of the AAQ NEPM standards for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and ozone is a priority action under the National Clean Air Agreement. The current review will consider the latest health evidence, current guidelines and international standards.

The Victorian Environment Protection Authority is leading the current review of ozone, nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide. The AAQ NEPM review has followed a robust process, with significant collaboration with other states and territories and the Commonwealth, to deliver a high quality, evidence-based Information Report which will inform the National Environment Protection Council's (NEPC) decision.

This follows the recently completed review of the ambient standards for particles, which were prioritised over the other pollutants due to the much greater health impacts of particles, and the health benefits to be gained from undertaking this work first.

It is anticipated that in the second half of 2018, the NEPC will consider whether to form an intent to vary the AAQ NEPM standards. An intention to vary will trigger a public consultation process on proposed options. Following public consultation, the NEPC will consider the feedback received before making a final decision.

Your suggestion to establish an independent national Environment Protection Agency is beyond the scope of the review.

I look forward to working with other Australian jurisdictions in considering all of the available information to support appropriate national air quality standards for the protection of human health and the environment.

Thank you for writing to me on this important matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a cursive 'D' and a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon Stephen Dawson MLC
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

07 FEB 2018