

action 8: clean air

While Melbourne enjoys a 'good' ranking for air quality by international standards, we consistently rate air pollution as one of the most important environmental concerns. Air quality has a direct impact on our health and well-being and is closely linked to our efforts to reduce the impact of climate change. Pressures from increased population and a growing number of motor vehicles on our roads require continued action to improve the quality of the air we breathe.

What we will do

8.1 Air quality monitoring stations

We are investing \$3 million to update and renovate Victoria's air quality monitoring network.

While Melbourne enjoys a good ranking for air quality by international standards, air quality remains a major concern to many of us. Poor air quality can affect our health and our ability to enjoy the outdoor environment.

In partnership with Ecotech Pty Ltd, the EPA will update the current metropolitan air monitoring network with new instrumentation, new shelters and infrastructure. Two new stations will be established in Melbourne's northern and western suburbs, to better represent the significant population growth in the outer metropolitan regions.

8.2 Reducing exhaust emissions

We will tackle the problem of diesel exhaust emissions – which disproportionately contribute to fine particle pollution in Victoria – through education, testing and targeted-reduction programs.

Diesel-fuelled motor vehicles contribute higher levels of fine particle pollution relative to other vehicles in the vehicle fleet. To help reduce this impact we will work with the Commonwealth Government to create a training facility for diesel vehicle mechanics in tuning effects on emissions performance; open a test facility for diesel vehicles as part of the EPA's Smoky Vehicle program; and implement with local government in-service diesel vehicle emissions reduction programs.

8.3 New national fuel standards

We will support the new National Fuel Standards and continue the EPA's Smoky Vehicle program to encourage more Victorians to report polluting cars.

Through the new national fuel standards we will reduce fine air particle pollution by reducing sulfur content in diesel and benzene content in petrol.

Through the EPA, we will continue to promote the benefits of smooth driving and vehicle maintenance for the environment and the Smoky Vehicle program, which last year saw 20,000 reports of vehicles with excessive exhaust emissions.



If our economies are to flourish, if global poverty is to be banished, and if the well-being of the world's people enhanced – not just in this generation but in succeeding generations - we must make sure we take care of the natural environment and resources on which our economic activity depends.
Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer

8.4 Sustainable heating

We will educate Victorians about the importance of well-maintained heaters and enforce Australian standards for wood heaters.

Smoke from wood heaters and open fireplaces is a significant source of air pollution in Victoria during autumn and winter months. To encourage more sustainable heating choices and practices we will implement the Waste Management Policy (Solid Fuel Heating), which includes a requirement that wood heaters sold in Victoria meet the Australian Standard.

Media campaigns will raise awareness of the importance of good wood heater operating practices and collaborative programs with local government will assist in better addressing nuisance issues caused by wood heaters.

9 Tips for Cleaner Air

1. Keep your car regularly tuned and maintained and cut car pollution by up to 25 per cent – and you'll also save on fuel consumption.
2. Drive smoothly and plan your trips - you'll arrive just as quickly and save more on fuel.
3. Keep your car's tyres inflated to the manufacturer's specifications.
4. Try riding a bike or walking instead of using a car – Melbourne has some of the most magnificent bike paths and walking tracks in the world.
5. Use public transport wherever you can.
6. Limit your wood fires to romantic weekends or special occasions.
7. If you are buying a slow combustion wood heater, make sure it meets the Australian Standard and is installed correctly.
8. When you trade in your old car check out the possibility of sharp, snappy, fuel-efficient, low emission car as a replacement.
9. Dob in smoky vehicles.