

**Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC)  
Incorporating National Environment Protection Council (NEPC)**

**From:** [Haemish Middleton](#)

**To:**

**Cc:** [Kerry Scott](#)

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 23, 2008 1:13 PM

**Subject:** RE: PM Air Standards for particle pollution

Hello Mr Stott

Thank you for your email. Kerry Scott is on leave at the moment and asked me to respond to your query.

The Ambient Air Quality NEPM is currently under review, with a Review Report due in 2009. Included in that review will be consideration of particle pollution which will essentially cover two issues:

- Is the current Standard for PM10 appropriate?
- Should there be a mandatory standard for PM2.5, if so at what level?

If a mandatory standard for PM2.5 is adopted, it would exist alongside a mandatory standard for PM10 ie both PM2.5 and PM10 would be monitored. I think this would address the concern expressed in your last paragraph of focusing on the wrong type of particles. As you note, there is increasing recognition of the health effects of smaller particles and that these need to be monitored in addition to PM10.

The review will use the latest Australian and international research on the effects of particles on human health, in addition to submissions from experts and the public to determine appropriate standards for particles. Similarly the review will consider Australian and international expertise and submissions on the appropriate monitoring equipment for measuring particles. The issues of whether exceedences should be allowed, and if so what number, will also be considered by the review.

Papers related to the review are available at the following web address:

<http://www.ephc.gov.au/taxonomy/term/23>

A Discussion paper considering appropriate standards for the criteria pollutants is due for release in May next year.

The review will make a number of recommendations to NEPC in late 2009. If NEPC accepts these recommendations it will commence a formal variation of the NEPM, which involves a number of legislated steps including a formal consultation period.

I hope this answers your question, please let me know if you have any further queries.

Regards

Haemish Middleton | NEPC Service Corporation | Tel: (08) 8419 1209 | Level 5, 81 Flinders Street, Adelaide SA 5000  
| Website: [www.ephc.gov.au](http://www.ephc.gov.au)