

Review of the National Pollutant Inventory

Terms of reference, November 2016

The National Environment Protection Council has approved the following terms of reference for an independent review of the National Pollutant Inventory:

Governance

The review of the National Pollutant Inventory will be managed by the Commonwealth, overseen by a steering committee of senior officials and supported by the Intergovernmental Working Group established under the Memoranda of Understanding between the Commonwealth and states and territories on the operation of the National Pollutant Inventory.

Scope

The review will include:

1. An assessment of the extent to which the National Pollutant Inventory contributes, and its potential to contribute, to achievement of the desired environmental outcomes specified in the *National Environment Protection (National Pollutant Inventory) Measure 1998*, and whether those outcomes remain appropriate.
2. The scope for improving the performance of the National Pollutant Inventory, considering:
 - user experience, international benchmarks and use of data to meet international reporting needs
 - accuracy of reporting by industry, including any need for strengthened compliance and enforcement measures
 - interaction with other government programs, particularly those that monitor or manage emissions, wastes and hazardous substances
 - potential costs and benefits of alternative delivery models (including alternative legislative frameworks).
3. A comprehensive review of the *National Environment Protection (National Pollutant Inventory) Measure 1998*, as provided for in subsection 33(1) of the Measure.
4. Consideration of sustainable resourcing models for the effective operation of the National Pollutant Inventory, including options for cost recovery.

Timing

A report on the findings of the review is to be provided to Ministers at their first meeting in 2018.