

## **LATROBE VALLEY AIR MONITORING NETWORK**

### **ANNUAL AIR QUALITY REPORT 2008**

The quality of the ambient air has been monitored in the Latrobe Valley since 1977. Since it was established the monitoring network has gathered meteorological data at six sites and monitored air quality at thirty sites throughout the Valley. The current network consists of four core air monitoring stations, one seasonal ozone monitoring station and an acoustic sounder gathering meteorological data

The 2008 annual air quality report for the Latrobe Valley has been released.

The smoke from bushfires and fuel reduction burning had considerably less impact on regional air quality than in 2006 and 2007, in that fewer days of LVD or PM<sub>10</sub> exceedences occurred.

The highest 1hr average nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) concentration, 0.046 ppm measured at Moe on 24 April, was attributed to planned burning activity in the northern ranges of the Latrobe Valley. This was well below the State Environment Protection Policy (SEPP) 1hr Objective for NO<sub>2</sub> of 0.12 ppm.

Particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>) is measured and compared against the Objective of 50.0µg/m, 24-hour average. Numerous exceedences of the SEPP Objective occurred at Moe (6 days) and Traralgon (2 days) mainly due to bushfires and fuel reduction burning. The highest 24 hour average PM<sub>10</sub> concentration measured at Moe was 90.9 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. The highest 24 hour average PM<sub>10</sub> concentration measured at Traralgon was 64.9µg/m<sup>3</sup> and the highest at Rosedale South was 36.2µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

The SEPP 1hr Objective for Local Visual Distance (LVD) of 20 km was exceeded on 31 separate days during the year. The SEPP goal is that exceedences should occur on no more than 3 days per year per site. The most exceedence days recorded by a single station was 25 at Traralgon, which breached the SEPP goal. The Goal was also breached at Moe, with 9 exceedence days. Widespread LVD breaches were attributed mainly to fuel reduction burning. The total number of exceedences for the Network was 48, which is comparable to most recent years.

The highest 1hr average ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) concentration for the year was 0.074 ppm, which occurred on 6 March at Jeeralang Hill. This value did not exceed the SEPP 1hr Air Quality Objective of 0.10 ppm.

The highest 4hr rolling average O<sub>3</sub> concentration for the year, 0.061 ppm, occurred at Jeeralang Hill on 12 November. This measurement did not exceed the corresponding SEPP Objective of 0.08 ppm

The highest measured values of sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) in the Latrobe Valley can usually be attributed to power station emissions. The highest 1hr average concentration in 2008 (0.334 ppm) was measured on 9 March at Jeeralang Hill in the Strzelecki Ranges. The SEPP 1hr Objective of 0.20 ppm was exceeded at Jeeralang Hill on four occasions during the year.

The highest 1hr average SO<sub>2</sub> concentration measured on the floor of the Latrobe Valley was 0.170 ppm at Traralgon on 4 November. This event was attributed to power station emissions and is the highest measured concentration on record for an urban site.

For more information about the LVAMN and to download a copy of the report visit the PowerWorks web site, [www.powerworks.com.au/environment.asp](http://www.powerworks.com.au/environment.asp). Alternatively copies of the report are available from the EPA office located at 7 Church Street, Traralgon, or phone 5173 9800