Perth Air Quality Coordinating Committee

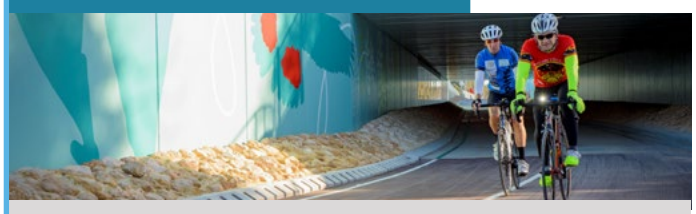
Report Card 2024–25

The Perth Air Quality Management Plan (Perth AQMP) was released in December 2000. It aims to ensure that clean air is achieved and maintained throughout the Perth metropolitan region.

The short-term and long-term actions in the Perth AQMP address a variety of issues through eight key initiatives: land use and transport planning; vehicle emissions management; health effects research and indoor air quality; monitoring and modelling; industrial emissions management; small to medium enterprise emissions management; haze reduction; smoke management.

Highlights include:

Active Transport



Active Transport supports the community to occasionally replace car trips with walking, bike riding and using public transport where possible. The Your Move program offers information on ways to get around such as walk and bike paths and public transport services, contributing to community health and wellbeing while reducing car use and the associated emissions and congestion.

The Armadale Line Active Transport (ALAT) project encouraged people to walk, wheel and ride for local trips during the Armadale and Thornlie line shutdown period when level crossings were removed, the train line elevated and new stations built.

Highlights 2024–25

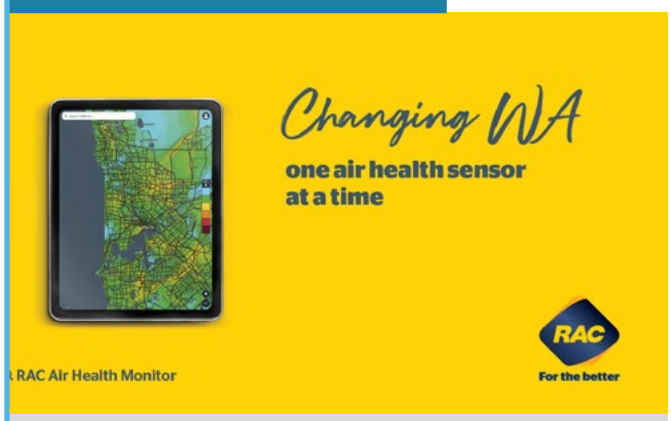
A total of 14 Your Move schools received intensive support throughout the ALAT project. This included:

- bike education sessions to develop students' bike handling and road safety skills
- active travel festivals promoting active ways to school
- preparing and circulating access guides that highlighted safe bike and walk routes to schools
- parent engagement with selected schools via competitions and communication encouraging parents to walk or ride to school with their children
- overall, the ALAT Project engagement with schools reached more than 7,500 students along with their parents and carers.
- the School Open Streets concept was trialled with one school along the rail corridor. A section of adjacent road was closed to car traffic immediately before and after school on three days and used for informal play to encourage walking and riding by students and parents.

Surveys of students and parents for schools participating in the ALAT Project found:

- 76 per cent of parents said they were more supportive of their children walking or riding to school because of the initiatives
- 81 per cent of parents said these initiatives helped them meet other parents, improving social engagement
- the number of students walking, riding and scootering increased by 13 per cent between terms one and four in 2024
- 45 per cent of students walked or rode to school on the survey day – higher than the Perth average of around 20 per cent on a typical day
- car trips to schools reduced by six per cent.

RAC Air Health Monitor



The RAC Air Health Monitor (AHM) measures particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10}) and nitrogen dioxide (NO_2). It is an RAC initiative that:

- collects data about air quality to support advocacy and community engagement
- displays data via an interactive model that blends air quality data from 205 air quality sensors along with other sources in a way that is easy to interpret and understand by members and the community.

Highlights 2024–25

- A total of 205 air quality sensors were live across Perth and Peel, including 10 black carbon modules and 10 weather modules.
- Partnerships included 22 local government authorities, four government agencies and industry partners, 37 private schools and 38 RAC locations (residential/commercial).
- The air quality page had more than 140,685 page views and 85,678 unique users.
- The AHM won the Clean Air Society of Australia and New Zealand (CASANZ) Innovation and Excellence Award for industry excellence in 2024.
- An eight-week awareness campaign resulted in 54,302 Air Health Monitor page views.
- RAC welcomed its first air quality specialist in the team to assist with sharing and analysing data insights.
- RAC was a key sponsor at the 78th Environmental Health Australia State Conference.
- The 2023 annual review of network was completed, with insights to be shared in the 2025 financial year.
- Across the network, 10 black carbon modules were installed with 12-month analysis available in the 2025 financial year.

RAC Electric Highway®



The decade-long RAC electric vehicle (EV) charging demonstration came to close on 30 June 2025. The network of vehicle charging stations between Perth and Pemberton contributed to the broader goal of reducing harmful emissions from vehicles and promoting the availability of cleaner transport. It was the first project of its kind in Australia and a catalyst for encouraging government and private investment.

Highlights 2024–25

The RAC Electric Highway:

- demonstrated and promoted the availability of EV charging stations, providing a vital connection for motorists
- played a key role in reducing range anxiety for EV owners and encouraged early EV adoption across Western Australia
- achieved 45,883 charging sessions in 2024–25 and more than 120,000 charging sessions since 2020
- served as a catalyst for government and industry investment into EV charging infrastructure
- provided endless opportunities to share knowledge over the years
- remaining charging stations on the RAC Electric Highway are owned and managed by local governments.

RAC continues to own and operate RAC EV Charging Stations including West Perth head office, selected parks and resorts and auto service centres.

Air Quality COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Report Card 2024–25

Electric vehicle strategy



The $21 million *State Electric Vehicle Strategy for Western Australia* provides a pathway for decarbonising road transport, improving air quality and supporting a robust electricity system with increasing levels of renewable energy.

Highlights 2024–25

- The use of electric vehicles has been investigated and supported by the 2020 strategy and the 2021 Electric Vehicle Action Plan: Preparing WA's electricity system for EVs. More than half the strategy's actions have been completed, including the EV network consisting of 110 chargers at 49 sites to allow travel around the state.
- The need to transition to EVs was emphasised in the Sectoral emissions reduction strategy (SERS). The SERS commits to the development of an EV infrastructure strategy for the state, which will identify charging infrastructure needed to support projected uptake of EVs statewide. The SERS also commits to increasing the government fleet EV target to 50 per cent of eligible new vehicle purchases from 1 July 2025.
- The number of licensed EVs in WA grew by 12.77 per cent in the first quarter of 2025. Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) grew by 22.57 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2024, and by 36.43 per cent in the first quarter of 2025, significantly exceeding previous growth trends. The licensing rise preceded a policy change, effective 1 April 2025, no longer qualifying PHEVs for the electric car exemption under fringe benefits tax law.
- The Clean Energy Car Fund was implemented between May 2022 and May 2025. The fund provided rebates of $3,500 to Western Australians who bought a new electric or hydrogen fuel cell vehicle up to a value of $70,000. As of 30 June 2025, 14,186 rebates had been paid to Western Australian motorists.
- As of 28 July 2025, the $15 million Charge Up grant program had approved applications for 634 AC chargers and 82 DC fast chargers – of which 486 AC chargers and 49 DC fast chargers were successfully installed – and an additional 137 AC chargers and 151 DC fast charger grant applications were still under assessment.
- Trialling of electric buses on the Transperth network started in Joondalup in February 2022 and was completed in late 2024. The Public Transport Authority has worked with Western Power and bus suppliers to develop a bus electrification strategy and timetable for its entire fleet, with a commitment to only purchase electric buses from mid-2025. This is being implemented with $250 million in joint State and Australian Government funding. The State Government has committed to purchasing only battery electric buses for the Transperth and regional city bus networks from mid 2025

Smoky Vehicle Reporting Program

CleanRun
Let's drive down emissions



This program is a joint initiative of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and Department of Transport. It aims to:

- identify vehicles that are at risk of breaching vehicle emission legislation
- engage with vehicle owners to undertake any necessary vehicle maintenance.

The program is a key initiative of the *National Environment Protection (Diesel Vehicle Emissions) Measure 2001*.

Highlights 2024–25

Key findings of the Smoky Vehicle Reporting Program 2023-24 Annual report include:

- A total of 1077 valid vehicle reports were received in 2023-24 via the reporting form on the website. Reports were received from 587 individuals.
- Approximately two thirds of vehicle owners advised having repaired or serviced their vehicles.
- Diesel vehicles continue to be over represented in reports, with nearly nine out of ten vehicles reported to be diesels.
- The program was updated during this period with improvements to data verification protocols. Improvements in data quality will continue to help characterise fleet performance and identify trends for further policy review.

Air quality monitoring and modelling



The objectives of this program are to:

- introduce procedures for the ongoing development of current air quality models and review of new modelling methods and techniques for application in Perth
- ensure the existing monitoring network is maintained and improved and to assess trends in air quality
- develop future monitoring programs, based on the exposure to and impact of air toxins and acid gases, evaluate monitoring options such as mobile monitoring facilities and review emerging air quality issues.

This program, run by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, aims to ensure that the existing monitoring network is maintained and improved, and continues to assess trends in air quality. This program incorporates the review of Perth ambient air quality monitoring data and the review and improvement of monitoring equipment.

Highlights 2024–25

- Began development of high-resolution datasets for Perth to enable assessment of the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect. Products will include urban heat island scenarios and analysis tools to support future city planning activities, including assessment of climate change adaptation actions. Progress has been made in the areas of stakeholder engagement/collaboration, supercomputing resource planning, input data identification and environmental monitoring.
- As a response to findings of the 2020 Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements, the Department has deployed low-cost air quality monitoring sensors to regional areas that do not have permanent monitoring stations. The network includes eight regional towns and cities, with sensors installed at local government facilities. The network provides real-time access to smoke levels, enabling people in those communities to better understand their potential exposure and manage their activities to minimise the impacts of smoke. The monitoring network is currently under review.
- New campaign monitoring programs are undertaken where a need is identified. Where appropriate, these studies are published on the Department website.
- An air quality monitoring site was established in Pinjarra from November 2024 to April 2025. The campaign was held in response to concerns expressed by community members about potential dust emissions from the nearby Alcoa refinery operations. A report on the findings of the campaign will be published in the second half of 2025.

Report Card 2024–25

Air Quality Coordinating Committee

The committee comprises representatives from State Government, industry, business and the community to monitor the implementation of the Perth Air Quality Management Plan and review progress towards achieving its aims.

Members as at 30 June 2025:

State Government

- Carrie Sunderland – Chair (Department of Water and Environmental Regulation)
- Tanya Gillett (Department of Health)
- Justin McKirdy (Department of Transport)
- Mike Meinema (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions)
- Lisa Powell (Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage)

Community

- Professor Philip Jennings (Conservation Council of Western Australia)
- Dr Sue Graham-Taylor (Pollution Action Network)
- Martin Chape (community member)

Business and industry

- Rebecca Brown (WA Local Government Association)
- David Harrison (Kwinana Industries Council)
- Anne Still (Royal Automobile Club of WA)

The Air Quality Coordinating Committee met twice between July 2024 and June 2025.

Contact the Air Quality Coordinating Committee

For more information, please visit Air Quality Coordinating Committee or contact:

The secretary
Tel: 08 6364 6581
Email: AQCCadmin@dwer.wa.gov.au

Further details on air pollutant trends in Perth can be found in the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's WA air monitoring reports. An hourly update of air quality in WA is also available.

Air pollutant trends 2022–25

The graphs below show the maximum levels for fine particle ($PM_{2.5}$), coarse particles (PM_{10}), ozone and nitrogen dioxide from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2025, recorded at Perth monitoring stations (Armadale, Caversham, South Lake, Duncraig, Mandurah, Rolling Green, Quinns Rocks, Rockingham, Swanbourne and Wattleup).

For comparison, the diameter of a human hair is seven times the diameter of the largest coarse particle (PM_{10}). The high concentrations of particles were primarily due to natural dust and smoke haze. The precursors for ozone (an indicator of photochemical smog) are produced by motor vehicles and industry. Nitrogen dioxide in cities is caused by motor vehicles and contributes to the formation of photochemical smog.

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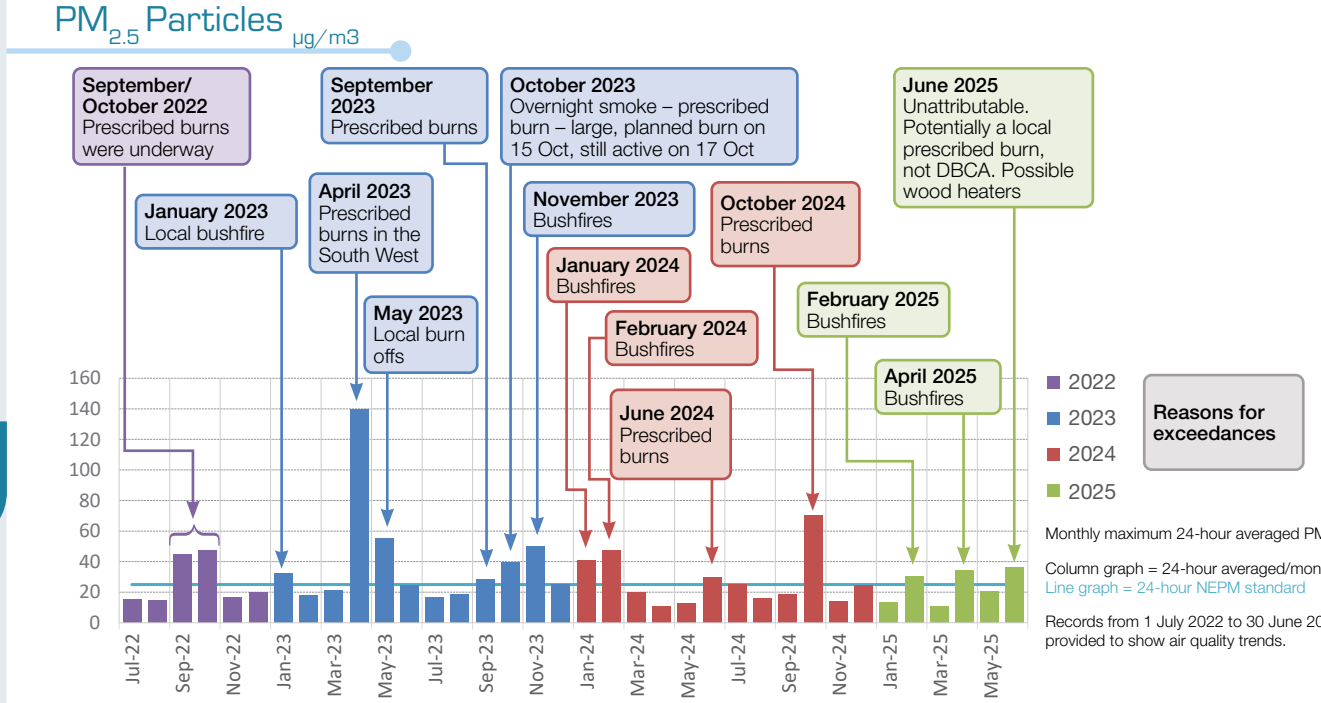
$PM_{2.5}$ Particles µg/m3

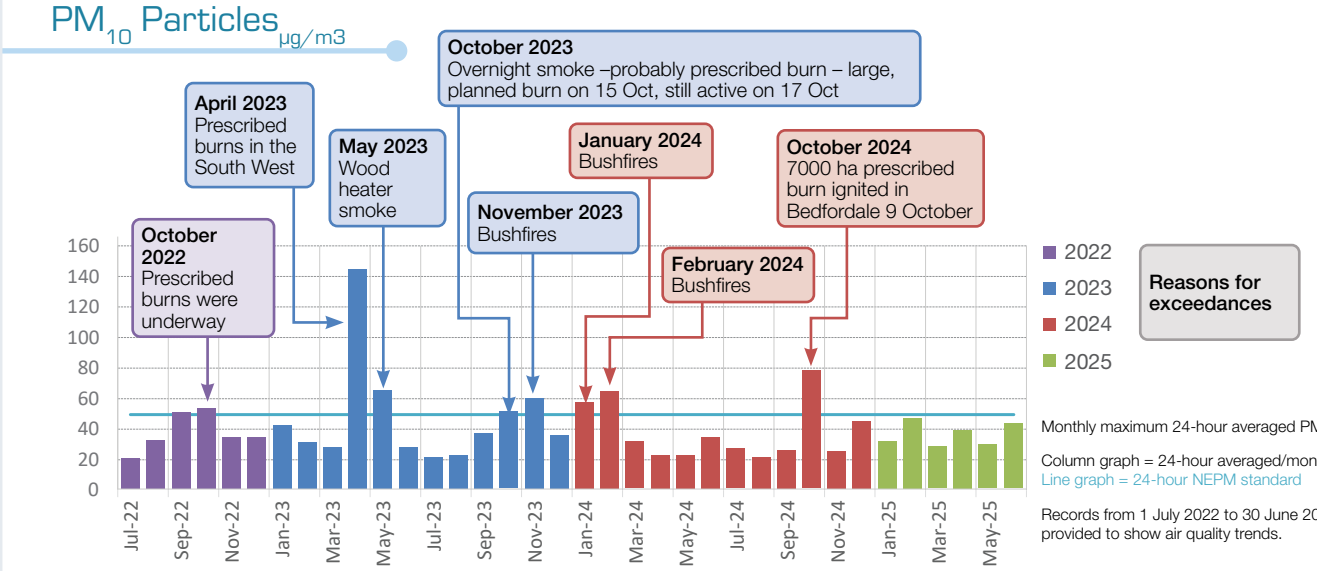


Monthly maximum 24-hour averaged $PM_{2.5}$

Column graph = 24-hour averaged/month,
Line graph = 24-hour NEPM standard

Records from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2025 provided to show air quality trends.

PM_{10} Particles µg/m3

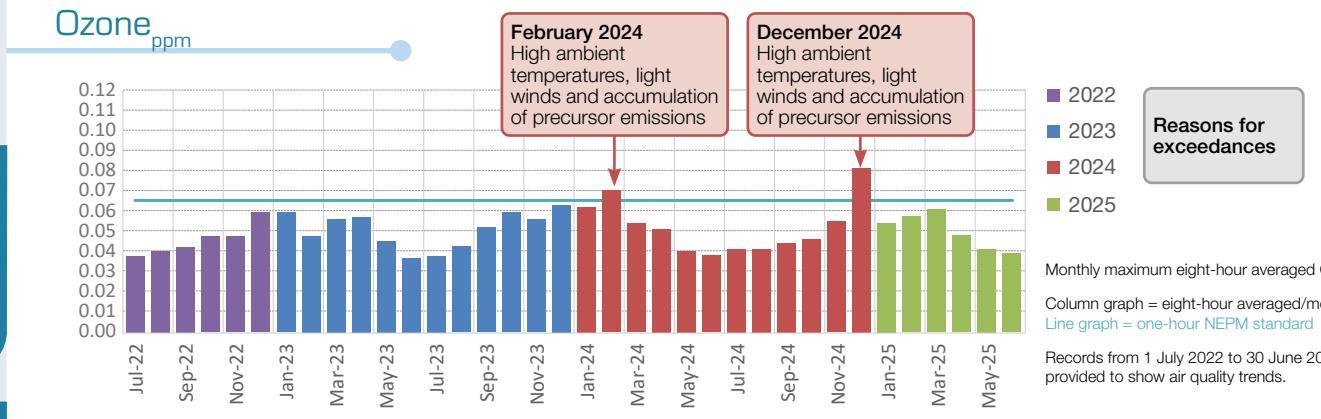


Monthly maximum 24-hour averaged PM_{10}

Column graph = 24-hour averaged/month,
Line graph = 24-hour NEPM standard

Records from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2025 provided to show air quality trends.

Ozone ppm

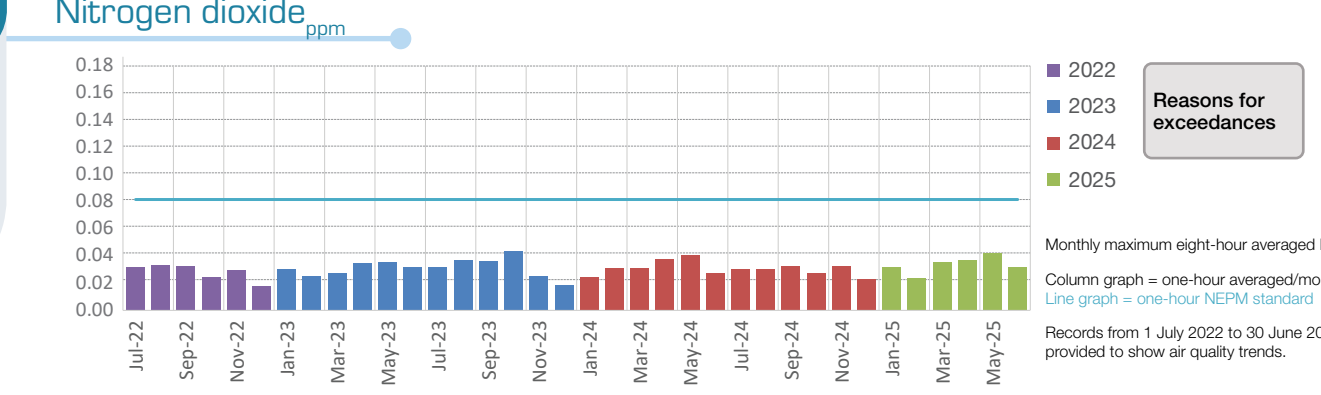


Monthly maximum eight-hour averaged O_3

Column graph = eight-hour averaged/month,
Line graph = one-hour NEPM standard

Records from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2025 provided to show air quality trends.

Nitrogen dioxide ppm



Monthly maximum eight-hour averaged NO_2

Column graph = one-hour averaged/month,
Line graph = one-hour NEPM standard

Records from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2025 provided to show air quality trends.

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