

**Ambient Air Quality  
Research Project  
(1996–2001)**

**Internal working paper no. 3**

**Ambient Concentrations of Polycyclic  
Aromatic Hydrocarbon Species in NSW**



Department of  
**Environment and Conservation (NSW)**

This report was prepared by staff of the Atmospheric Science Section of the Department of Environment and Conservation, Sydney.

For further information about this report, phone the Director, Atmospheric Science on (02) 9995 5000.

This is an internal working paper and has not been reviewed by experts in the field who are independent of the study or of the Department of Environment and Conservation.

The original research contained herein is being submitted to a peer-reviewed scientific journal for publication.

Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW)  
59–61 Goulburn Street, Sydney  
PO Box A290  
Sydney South NSW 1232  
Phone: (02) 9995 5000 (main switchboard)  
Phone: 131 555 (NSW only—information and publication requests)  
Sydney Air Pollution Index: 1300 130 520  
Fax: (02) 9995 5999  
TTY: (02) 9211 4723  
Email: [info@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@epa.nsw.gov.au)  
Website: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

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## Executive Summary

**In September 2003, the EPA became part of the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW). Since the research in this report was conducted before September 2003, the organisation is referred to as the EPA throughout.**

The purpose of this study was to measure the ambient concentrations of 19 polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in particulate matter only. This study was one of four studies on groups of air pollutants that together form the Ambient Air Quality Research Project (1996–2001) (NSW EPA 2002).

PAHs are chemical compounds of carbon and hydrogen containing at least two six-sided (benzene) carbon rings. They are formed during the combustion of organic matter (e.g. coal, wood and diesel). There is international concern about exposure to a number of PAHs and their associated health effects. The carcinogenic potency of benzo(a)pyrene (BaP), which is a five-ring PAH, has been widely reported in the international literature.

This survey was designed to determine which PAHs were present and to provide indicative concentrations of those found. The focus of the study was to collect samples during winter, when conditions are conducive to higher concentrations. Limited additional sampling conducted at other times of the year confirmed that PAH concentrations in NSW were higher in winter.

Although different PAHs may exist in the atmosphere as either particles or gases, only the concentrations of PAHs in the particulate phase were measured in this study. Particulate matter with an aerodynamic equivalent diameter of less than ten micrometres (PM<sub>10</sub>) was collected using a high-volume sampler in accordance with AS 3580.9.6-1990. Analysis of PAHs was done in accordance with US EPA Method 3545. 'Total PAH' concentrations in this report represent the sum of eleven PAHs, which are found predominantly in the particulate phase. Since the remaining eight PAHs occur predominantly in the vapour phase, it was not possible to estimate their total ambient concentration from the concentrations measured in the particulate phase.

Sampling was undertaken at a number of sites, including the Sydney, Illawarra and lower Hunter regions, South Coast (Nowra) and the Great Dividing Range (Lithgow, Cooma, Armidale, Tumut and Orange), where the use of solid fuels for domestic heating is common.

The regional variation in concentrations for measurements made in winter was large. Average total PAH concentrations (ng/m<sup>3</sup>) in the Great Dividing Range sites in winter were 7.16 at Tumut, 7.68 at Cooma, 8.62 at Armidale and 23.8 at Lithgow. The Sydney region reported 4.47 ng/m<sup>3</sup>, the lower Hunter 2.68, the Illawarra 1.71 and the South Coast 0.92.

Concentrations of individual PAHs were within the ranges found in observational programs elsewhere. In particular, average concentrations were similar to those reported for Birmingham, UK (Harrison *et al.* 1996).

The inter-seasonal variation was also large, with winter concentrations at the sites ranging from two to more than twenty times higher than those in summer. Higher winter concentrations of PAHs have also been reported overseas, particularly in the UK and Italy (Harrison *et al.* 1996; Menichini *et al.* 1999).

Using published toxicity factors showed that BaP dominates the estimated total toxicity for the PAH species sampled.

While there is no internationally recognised goal for total PAH, the UK and the European Commission (EC) recommend the use of BaP as a surrogate for total PAH for the development of goals. The EC has adopted an annual goal of 1.0 ng BaP/m<sup>3</sup>, while the UK has adopted a more stringent annual goal of 0.25 ng BaP/m<sup>3</sup> to be achieved by 2010. As these goals are expressed as annual averages it is not possible to directly compare them with concentrations measured in NSW, as sampling was conducted primarily in winter rather than throughout the year. However, seasonal averages of BaP do provide indications of sites that could potentially exceed these goals.

The average winter concentrations of BaP (ng/m<sup>3</sup>) in each region were 0.07 on the South Coast, 0.46 in Sydney, 0.16 in the Illawarra, 0.30 in the lower Hunter, 1.12 in Tumut and Cooma, 1.30 in Armidale and 4.21 in Lithgow. On the basis of the winter averages and the observed inter-seasonal variation, it is likely that all but one of the sites sampled would meet the EC annual goal of 1.0 ng BaP/m<sup>3</sup>. The Sydney CBD, Earlwood and the four Great Dividing Range sites would exceed the more stringent UK annual goal of 0.25 ng BaP/m<sup>3</sup>.

From the strong regional and seasonal variation, it was deduced that the domestic use of solid fuels was a significant source of PAH particles in the atmosphere. Programs to reduce emissions from this source are already in place. Continued monitoring would allow assessment of the effectiveness of these programs.

# Table of Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>List of Figures</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>List of Tables</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>Glossary of Terms and Acronyms</b>	<b>viii</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Project Design and Objectives	1
1.2 Target PAH Species	2
<b>2 Materials and Methods</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 Site Location and Characteristics	5
2.2 Sampling Schedule	7
2.3 Sampling and Analysis Procedure	8
2.4 Treatment of Concentrations Below the Detection Limit	8
2.5 Uncertainty of the Measurement Method	8
2.6 Data Analysis Method	9
<b>3 Results</b>	<b>10</b>
3.1 General Description of the Data	10
3.2 Summary of Total PAH	11
3.2.1 Analysis of PAH Results	13
3.3 Summary of BaP	15
3.4 Toxicity—BaP Equivalence	18
<b>4 Conclusions</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>5 References</b>	<b>22</b>
Further Reading	24
<b>Appendix 1 Ring structures of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Appendix 2 Detailed location of the sampling sites</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Appendix 3 Detailed Methodology</b>	<b>30</b>
3.1 Sampling Procedure	30
3.2 Sample Details	30
3.3 Analytical Method	30
3.3.1 Sample Extraction	30
3.3.2 Materials and Instruments	31
3.3.3 Limit of Detection	32

<b>Appendix 4 Sensitivity to Treatment of Species with Concentrations Below the Detection Limit</b>	<b>33</b>
Comparison of Differing Assumptions for Concentrations Below the Detection Limit	33
<b>Appendix 5 Summary Totals by Site</b>	<b>34</b>
5.1 Summary Total PAH	34
5.2 Summary of BaP	37
<b>Appendix 6 PAH Concentrations in Orange</b>	<b>39</b>

## List of Figures

Figure 1:	Sampling locations in the Sydney region	5
Figure 2:	Sampling locations in the Illawarra region	6
Figure 3:	Sampling locations in the lower Hunter region	6
Figure 4:	Regional sampling locations	7
Figure 5:	Seasonal variations in total PAH (derived from 24-hour samples: ng/m <sup>3</sup> ) —Sydney, Illawarra and lower Hunter regions and all other sites	12
Figure 6:	Seasonal variations in total PAH (derived from 24-hour samples: ng/m <sup>3</sup> ) —Sydney sites	13
Figure 7:	Seasonal variations in BaP—Sydney, Illawarra and lower Hunter regions and all other sites	17
Figure 8:	Seasonal variations in BaP—Sydney sites	17
Figure 9:	Average winter BaP concentration and annual goals	18
Figure 10:	Average BaP equivalence by site and season	20
Figure 11:	Seasonal average contribution to TEQ	20

## List of Tables

Table 1:	PAH species sampled	4
Table 2:	Aggregate sample count per site for August 1997 to February 2001	7
Table 3:	Frequency of detection of each PAH	10
Table 4:	Total PAH (derived from 24-hour samples: ng/m <sup>3</sup> ) in winter and summer —Sydney, Illawarra and lower Hunter regions and all other sites	11
Table 5:	Total PAH (derived from 24-hour samples: ng/m <sup>3</sup> ) in winter and summer —Sydney sites	12
Table 6:	Comparison of seasonal average concentration	14
Table 7:	Fuel use in New South Wales	15
Table 8:	Average minimum temperature—winter 2002	15
Table 9:	BaP (derived from 24-hour samples: ng/m <sup>3</sup> ) in winter and summer —Sydney, Illawarra and lower Hunter regions and all other sites	16
Table 10:	BaP (derived from 24-hour samples: ng/m <sup>3</sup> ) in winter and summer —Sydney sites	16
Table 11:	Potency equivalence factors	19

## Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

ABARE	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
ASE	accelerated solvent extractor
BHP	Broken Hill Proprietary Limited
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CBD	central business district
GC/MS	gas chromatography/mass spectrometry
IUPAC	International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry
ng	nanogram
NSW EPA	New South Wales Environment Protection Authority
PAH	polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons)
PEF	potency equivalence factor
PM <sub>10</sub>	particulate matter with aerodynamic diameter of 10 microns or less
QC	quality control
TEQ	toxicity equivalent
US EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency



# 1 Introduction

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are chemical compounds of carbon and hydrogen containing at least two six-sided (benzene) carbon rings. They may contain many fused rings, some of which may not be six-sided. Hundreds of PAHs have been identified in atmospheric particles (Lao *et al.* 1973; Lee *et al.* 1976).

PAHs are formed during the combustion of organic matter. Sources of PAHs include diesel and gasoline engines, solid fuels (e.g. coal and wood for heating and cooking), industrial processes (e.g. coke ovens used for steel manufacture, aluminium smelters and oil refining) and the burning of vegetation (e.g. stubble burning, bushfire hazard reduction and bushfires).

There is international concern about exposure to a number of PAHs and their associated health effects. The carcinogenic potency of benzo(a)pyrene (BaP), which is a five-ring PAH, has been widely reported in the international literature. The US EPA (1988) has identified sixteen priority PAHs based on concerns that they cause or might cause cancer in animals and humans. The International Agency for Research on Cancer and the US EPA have classified some of the PAH species as known or suspected carcinogens (Table 1).

## 1.1 Project Design and Objectives

This study was designed as a screening survey of the ambient concentrations of 19 PAHs in the PM<sub>10</sub> fraction at a number of urban and rural sites in NSW. In winter, some parts of Sydney and a number of larger towns located in the Great Dividing Range suffer from visibly high levels of smoke, which are largely due to domestic use of solid fuel heaters and still weather conditions. The objectives of the study were to determine which PAHs were present in ambient air and to provide indicative concentrations, with a focus on collecting samples during winter, when conditions are conducive to higher concentrations, particularly in these problem areas. Limited additional sampling conducted during other seasons confirmed that PAH concentrations are higher in winter.

Higher winter concentrations of particulate PAHs have been reported elsewhere (Harrison *et al.* 1996). Menichini *et al.* (1999) also reported that concentrations of PAHs measured at a site in Rome, Italy, tended to be about one order of magnitude higher in winter than in summer (cited in European Commission 2001). Factors contributing to higher concentrations of PAHs in winter include:

- less mixing in the atmosphere in winter due to stronger and more frequent temperature inversions, which can trap pollutants in a shallow layer at ground level; and still conditions, which further limit the dispersion of pollutants
- higher overall emissions in winter from wood and coal burning in solid fuel heaters
- slower removal of PAHs from the atmosphere in winter due to reduced degradation by photo-oxidation and reaction with hydroxyl radicals (European Commission 2001).

In this study, samples were collected from twenty-two sites in the major cities and selected rural centres of NSW. Sites in the Sydney, Illawarra and lower Hunter regions and in Nowra were selected to cover a range of urban conditions; sites in the Great Dividing Range (Lithgow, Cooma, Armidale, Tumut and Orange) were chosen to represent areas with significant use of domestic solid fuel heaters.

A number of different methods are used internationally to sample and analyse PAHs in ambient air. The list of PAH species targeted and the phase collected (vapour and/or

particulate) also varies. In studies conducted in Germany and Italy, for example, only the particulate phase PAHs were collected, whereas both the particulate and vapour phases were collected in studies in the UK and France (European Commission 2001). In this study, concentrations of PAHs in the particulate phase were measured, while concentrations in the vapour phase were excluded (see discussion in section 1.2).

Particulate matter with an aerodynamic equivalent diameter of less than ten micrometres (PM<sub>10</sub>) represents those particles that can pass beyond the larynx and deposit in the airways and in the deep lung. Because lung cancer is the main risk associated with inhaled PAHs, and this disease occurs in both the large airways and the deep lung, PM<sub>10</sub> is an appropriate measurement basis for PAHs (European Commission 2001). PM<sub>10</sub> was collected using a high-volume sampler in accordance with AS 3580.9.6-1990, while analysis of PAHs was done in accordance with US EPA Method 3545 (see Appendix 3).

While there is no internationally recognised goal for PAHs, the UK and the European Commission (EC) recommend the use of benzo(a)pyrene (BaP) as a surrogate for total PAH for the development of goals. The EC has adopted an annual BaP goal of 1.0 ng/m<sup>3</sup> measured in the PM<sub>10</sub> fraction (European Commission 2003). Note that NSW EPA (2002) was published before the EC's goal for BaP was finalised and as a result contains the draft goal. The EC reports that BaP can be used as a marker of the carcinogenic risk of airborne PAHs, despite not necessarily being the most potent carcinogen present. BaP has been shown to make a consistent contribution to the total carcinogenic activity of predominantly particle-bound PAHs on the basis of carcinogenic potency factors and measured annual average concentrations at a wide range of European sites, including the UK, Italy, Netherlands and Sweden (European Commission 2001). On the basis of the knowledge of physical and chemical removal processes, BaP appears to be a suitable marker for total PAH for most atmospheric conditions appropriate to Europe (European Commission 2001).

The UK has adopted a more stringent annual goal of 0.25 ng BaP/m<sup>3</sup> to be achieved by 2010 (DEFRA 2003). This UK goal is based on research that indicates that:

- the relative proportion of BaP in total PAH in each sample does not vary greatly
- even though found at modest concentrations, BaP was the largest contributor to total carcinogenic activity of the seven PAHs considered. The other six being benz(a)anthracene, dibenz(a,h)anthracene, benzo(b)fluoranthene, benzo(k)fluoranthene, indeno(1,2,3-c,d)pyrene and chrysene (DEFRA 1999).

As these goals are expressed as annual averages it is not possible to directly compare them with concentrations measured in NSW, as sampling was primarily conducted in winter rather than throughout the year. However, seasonal averages of BaP indicate sites that could exceed these goals.

## 1.2 Target PAH Species

Table 1 presents the nineteen PAH species measured in this study, referred to by their International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) names and abbreviations, which are used throughout this report.

The physical and chemical properties of PAHs are dependent on the number of aromatic rings and the molecular mass (see Appendix 1 for the ring structure of selected PAHs).

At usual ambient temperatures, PAHs exist in the atmosphere as a gas, or adsorbed onto solid particles, or as particles (Finlayson-Pitts and Pitts 2000). Lighter PAHs (lower molecular weight, fewer rings) are more likely to be in the gas (or vapour) phase rather than in the particle phase. The lightest member of the PAH family is naphthalene, a two-ring species, and is found in the vapour phase in the atmosphere. PAHs with three to five rings may have vapour pressures in an intermediate range and are present 'in part in the gas phase and partially associated with particles' (*ibid*). Such species are referred to as semivolatile. PAHs with five or more rings tend to be solids adsorbed onto other particulate matter in the atmosphere.

Park *et al.* (2001) collected both particulate and gaseous PAHs in Galveston (Texas, USA) and found that on average, for the two and three-ring species less than 5% of PAHs was in the particle phase. Of the four-ring species, fluoranthene and pyrene also had less than 5% in the particle phase, while chrysene had on the order of 25%, and benz(a)anthracene about 45%. PAH species with five rings or more had greater than 50% in the particle phase. These are indicative percentages based on the average of the weekly daytime sampling for a six-month period from February to August.

In this study, eight of the nineteen PAHs targeted generally occur predominantly in the vapour phase; namely naphthalene, acenaphthene, acenaphthylene, fluorene, anthracene, phenanthrene, fluoranthene and pyrene. For these eight PAHs, the fraction in the particle phase varies with temperature and with the chemical and physical properties of the particles present. Since these eight PAHs occur predominantly in the vapour phase, it was not possible to estimate their total concentration just from the concentration measured in the particulate phase only.

The remaining eleven PAHs targeted in this study are found predominantly in the particulate phase; namely benz(a)anthracene, benzo(a)pyrene, benzo(b)fluoranthene, benzo(e)pyrene, benzo(g,h,i)perylene, benzo(k)fluoranthene, chrysene, coronene, dibenz(a,h)anthracene, indeno(1,2,3-c,d)pyrene and perylene. The 'total PAH' values presented in this report are the sum of these eleven PAH species.

Of the nineteen PAHs targeted in this study, sixteen have been identified as priority PAHs by the US EPA on the basis of concerns that they cause or might cause cancer in animals and humans (see Table 1). These sixteen PAHs also form the subject group for PAH monitoring in the USA, UK, Austria, France (Paris), Greece and Luxembourg (European Commission 2001). The analytical methodology used in this study allowed for the determination of an additional three PAHs (benzo(e)pyrene, coronene and perylene).

**Table 1: PAH species sampled**

PAH species contributing to total PAH <sup>1</sup>						
Benz(a)anthracene	Yes	BaA	2A	B2	4	228.3
Benzo(a)pyrene	Yes	BaP	2A	B2	5	252.32
Benzo(b)fluoranthene	Yes	BbF	2B	B2	5	252.32
Benzo(e)pyrene	No	BeP	3		5	252.32
Benzo(g,h,i)perylene	Yes	BgP	3	D	6	276.34
Benzo(k)fluoranthene	Yes	BkF	2B	B2	5	252.32
Chrysene	Yes	Chr	3	B2	4	228.3
Coronene	No	Cor	3		7	300.36
Dibenz(a,h)anthracene	Yes	dBA	2A	B2	5	278.35
Indeno(1,2,3-c,d)pyrene	Yes	IP	2B	B2	6	276.34
Perylene	No	Per			5	252.32
PAH species occurring predominantly in the vapour phase						
Acenaphthene	Yes	Ace		-	3	154.2
Acenaphthylene	Yes	Aceth		D	3	152.2
Anthracene	Yes	Ant	3	D	3	178.24
Fluoranthene	Yes	Flu	3	D	4	202.26
Fluorene	Yes	Fl	3	D	3	166.23
Naphthalene	Yes	Nap	2B		2	128.18
Phenanthrene	Yes	PhA	3	D	3	178.24
Pyrene	Yes	Pyr	3	D	4	202.26

<sup>1</sup> Represents the PAH species that are used to calculate 'total PAH' in this study.

<sup>2</sup> Carcinogenic classifications of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC 2002)

Group 1, carcinogenic to humans; Group 2A, probably carcinogenic to humans; Group 2B, possibly carcinogenic to humans; Group 3, not classifiable as to its carcinogenicity to humans; Group 4, probably not carcinogenic to humans

<sup>3</sup> US EPA carcinogenic classifications (US EPA 2002 and US EPA 2003)

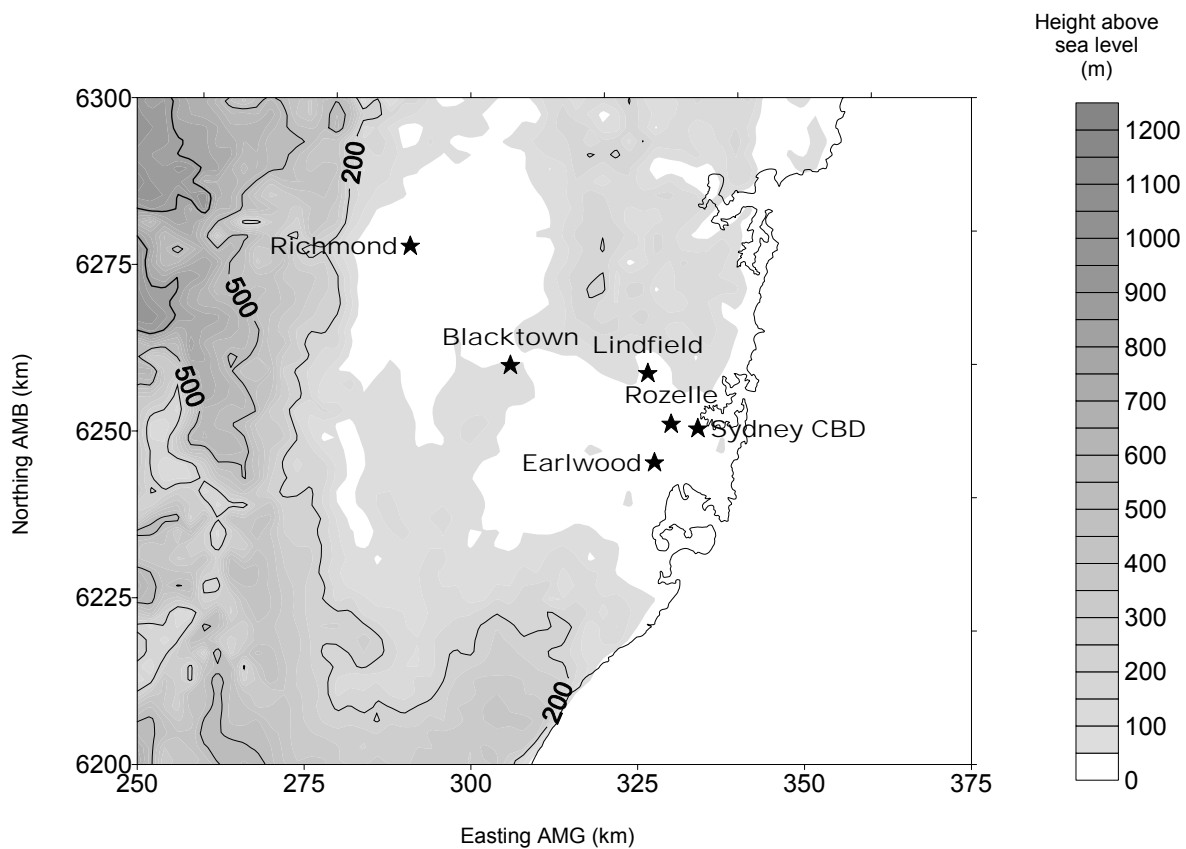
Group A, human carcinogen; Group B1, probable human carcinogen, limited human data available; Group B2, probable human carcinogen, sufficient evidence in animals and inadequate or no evidence in humans; Group C, possible human carcinogen; Group D, not classifiable as to human carcinogenicity (insufficient evidence, or no data available, in animals and humans); Group E, evidence of non-carcinogenicity for humans

## 2 Materials and Methods

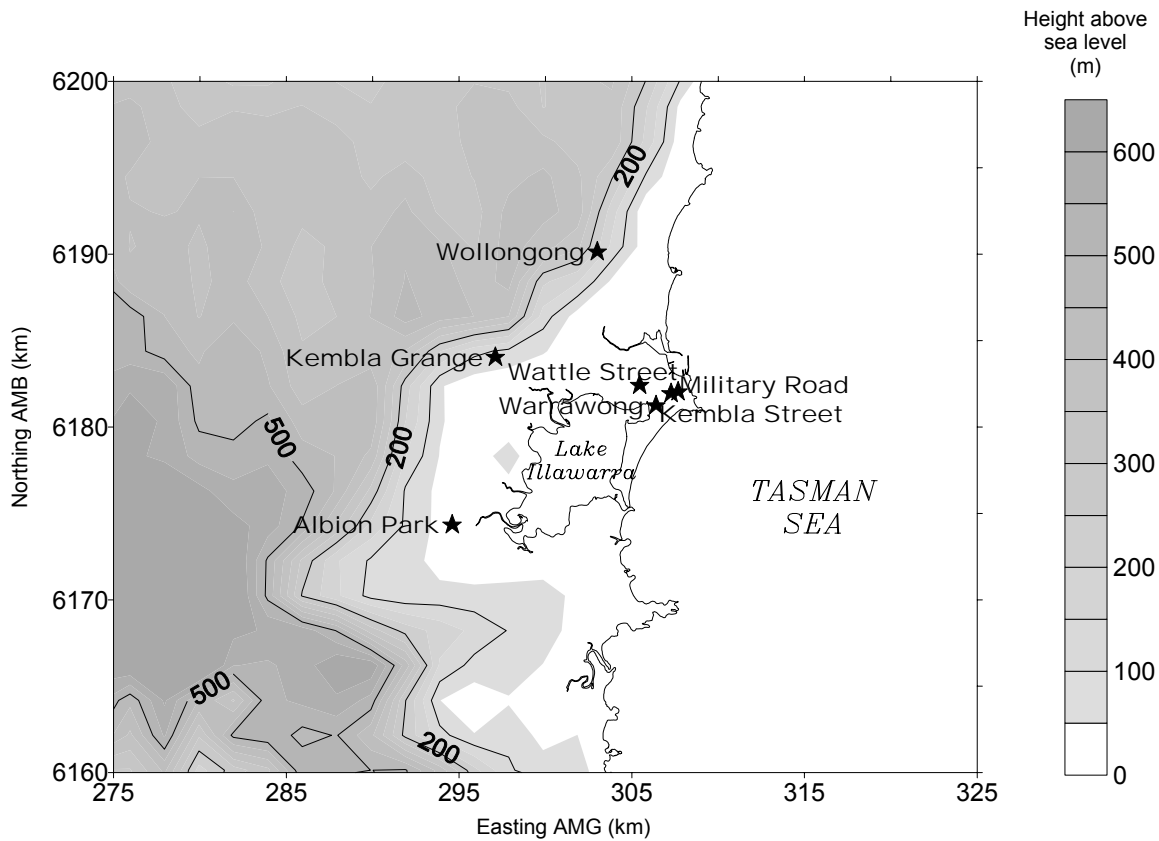
### 2.1 Site Location and Characteristics

PAHs were sampled at twenty-two sites in NSW, in the urban areas of Sydney, the Illawarra and the lower Hunter, and in selected regional centres. Six sites were in the Sydney region, seven in the Illawarra region, and three in the lower Hunter region. Five sites were located in the Great Dividing Range—Lithgow, Cooma, Armidale, Tumut and Orange. The remaining site was Nowra, located on the South Coast.

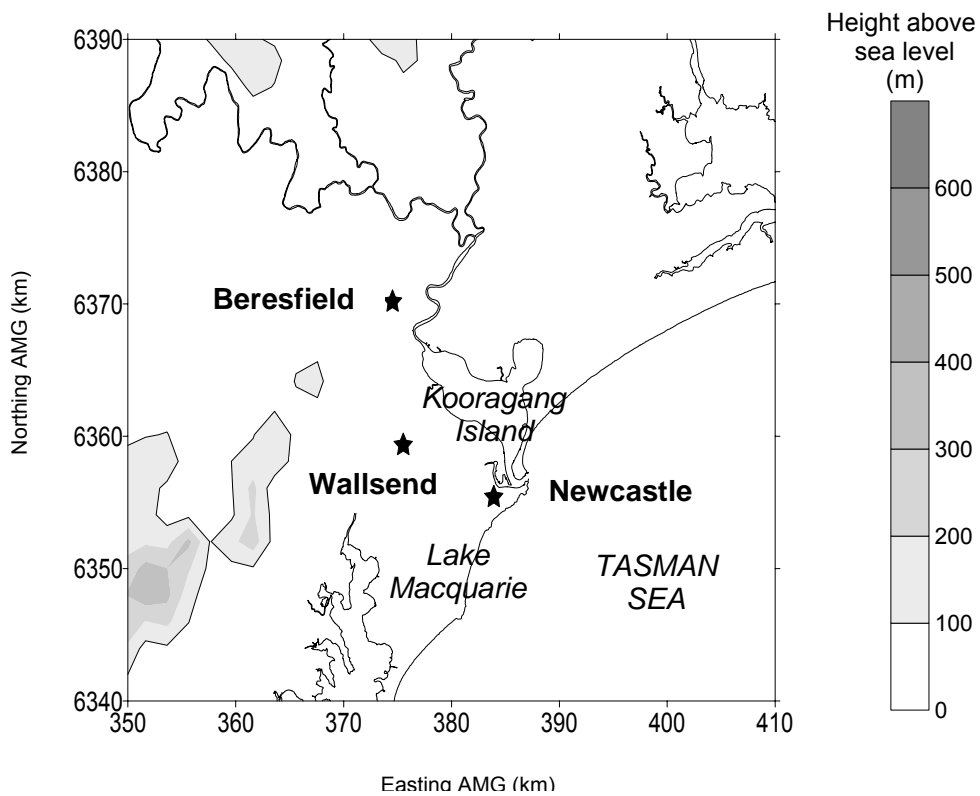
The sampling locations are shown in Figures 1 to 4. Sites consisted of the current NSW EPA ambient air quality monitoring network of PM<sub>10</sub> samplers. These monitoring stations are located according to AS 2922, the Australian Standard for the siting of sampling units (Standards Australia 1987). The locations of each site are detailed in Appendix 2.



**Figure 1: Sampling locations in the Sydney region**



**Figure 2: Sampling locations in the Illawarra region**



**Figure 3: Sampling locations in the lower Hunter region**

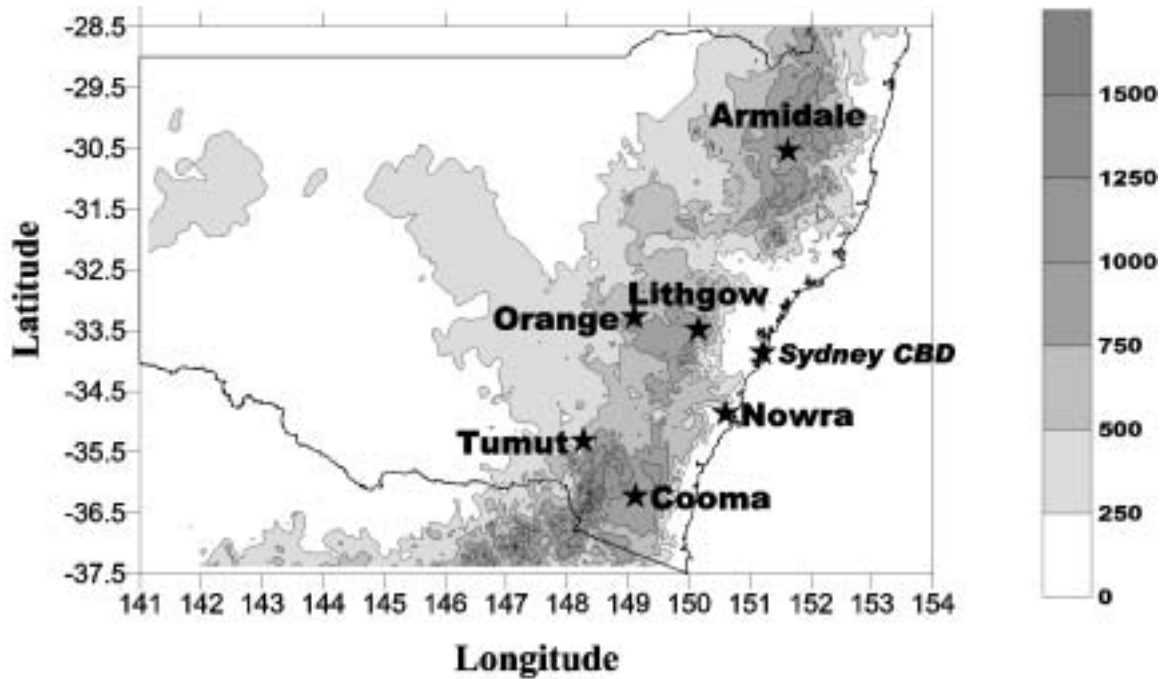


Figure 4: Regional sampling locations

## 2.2 Sampling Schedule

Samples were collected from August 1997 to February 2001, mainly in winter. The aggregate sample count, per site and per month, for the four years is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Aggregate sample count per site for August 1997 to February 2001

													Dec
Blacktown		2					3	7					2
Earlwood							4	6					2
Lindfield							5	7					
Richmond		2					2	6					2
Rozelle		2					4	4					2
Sydney CBD							4						
Albion Park							4	7					
Kembla Grange							2	6					
Kembla St (PK)							2	6					
Military Rd (PK)								5					
Warrawong		2					4	6					2
Wattle St (PK)							2	5					
Wollongong		2					4	6					2
Beresfield		2					4	6					1
Newcastle		2					5	6					2
Wallsend		2					3	7					2

												Dec
Armidale			1				4	1				2
Cooma		2					7	6				2
Lithgow		2					8	5	1*	6	2	2
Orange								6	1*			
Tumut	2	2		1	4	5	4	5	4	2		
Nowra									6			

PK = Port Kembla

\* Note that samples taken on 2 September were at the end of the winter sampling period and are designated winter samples.

### 2.3 Sampling and Analysis Procedure

Samples were collected on filter papers according to AS3580.9.6, the Australian Standard for collection of PM<sub>10</sub>, using a high-volume sampler (Standards Australia 1990). Air is drawn through a size-selective inlet at a known flow rate (68 m<sup>3</sup>h<sup>-1</sup>) for a determined time period (24-hours).

Filter papers were collected following standard protocols for ambient monitoring. The papers were weighed at controlled temperature and humidity. Samples were extracted according to US EPA Method 3545 and then analysed for the nineteen PAH species by gas chromatography / mass spectrometry (GC/MS). A full description of the procedure is given in Appendix 3.

The concentrations are reported in nanograms per cubic metre (ng/m<sup>3</sup>). A nanogram is 1 × 10<sup>-9</sup> grams or 0.000 000 001 grams.

### 2.4 Treatment of Concentrations Below the Detection Limit

All nineteen PAH species were measured at a concentration above the detection limit in at least one sample. However, in many samples the concentrations of one or more PAHs were reported as less than the detection limit for the analytical method. In this report, where a PAH species was below the limit of detection, a concentration of half the detection limit was assumed. This allows numerical comparison of total PAH. This is consistent with usual practice in data reporting, for example BAAQMD (1995). An analysis of the sensitivity of the data set to the treatment of PAH species with concentrations below the limit of detection is presented in Appendix 4.

During the study the detection limit varied owing to factors such as the fraction of the filter paper analysed.

### 2.5 Uncertainty of the Measurement Method

Uncertainty refers to the normal variability that occurs when making repeated measurements of the same or similar properties. It is important to consider measurement uncertainty when interpreting data. In the case of PAHs measured in this study, uncertainty arises from two major areas:

- the processes associated with collecting the sample
- the processes associated with the analytical measurements made in the laboratory.



Overall uncertainty is calculated by obtaining the contribution from each source of uncertainty separately (EURACHEM 2000). The European Commission (2001) approximates overall uncertainty for sampling and analysis of PAHs as  $\pm 35\%$ . For this calculation, the following sources were identified as contributing to overall uncertainty in the measurement of PAHs: standards, reference materials, sampling uncertainties (such as flow rates), extraction efficiencies, calibration and storage.

## **2.6 Data Analysis Method**

The screening survey is intended to provide current ambient concentrations at a variety of locations in NSW. Data for each of the six Sydney sites, Nowra, Cooma, Armidale, Tumut and Lithgow are presented separately. Data from sites in the Sydney, Illawarra and lower Hunter regions have been amalgamated to produce regional averages, maximums and medians. Appendix 5 presents data collected during each season from each site.

Summary statistics are presented for the derived total PAH (the sum of the eleven PAH species shown in Table 1) and BaP. Concentrations of BaP are compared to international goals for this pollutant. Total toxic equivalence is calculated on the basis of seven PAHs by using factors from current literature, and the contribution to total toxic equivalence from each is noted.

*t*-Tests were used to determine whether seasonal differences in average total PAH concentrations were statistically significant at each site.

### 3 Results

#### 3.1 General Description of the Data

During the project, 268 samples of PM<sub>10</sub> were collected from twenty-two sites in NSW. A total of 261 samples were collected over the standard 24-hour period. Given that the remaining seven samples were collected at Orange over a 16-hour period overnight (from 1600 one day to 0800 the next), they have been treated separately in this report (see Appendix 6).

Each of the nineteen PAHs was detected in at least one sample. Table 3 shows the frequency of detection of each PAH species.

The four light PAHs (acenaphthylene, acenaphthene, fluorene and anthracene) were the least frequently detected, being detected in fewer than 4% of samples. These low frequencies of detection and low concentrations of these lighter PAHs are consistent with their being found predominantly in the vapour phase. The next lowest frequency of detection was for dibenz(a,h)anthracene, which was detected in 16% of samples. Benzo(g,h,i)perylene was the PAH most frequently detected, occurring in 82% of the samples.

**Table 3: Frequency of detection of each PAH**

	%
Benz(a)anthracene	20
Benzo(a)pyrene	52
Benzo(b)fluoranthene	65
Benzo(e)pyrene	59
Benzo(g,h,i)perylene	82
Benzo(k)fluoranthene	23
Chrysene	35
Coronene	68
Dibenz(a,h)anthracene	16
Indeno(1,2,3-c,d)pyrene	71
Perylene	26
	%
Acenaphthene	2
Acenaphthylene	3
Anthracene	4
Fluoranthene	28
Fluorene	2
Naphthalene	34
Phenanthrene	31
Pyrene	31


Note: Total number of samples was 261 (Orange data were excluded)

### 3.2 Summary of Total PAH

Table 4 and Figure 5 summarise the winter and summer data for each sampling region. Data for each of the six Sydney sites, Nowra, Cooma, Armidale, Tumut and Lithgow are presented separately. Data from sites in the Sydney, Illawarra and lower Hunter regions have been amalgamated to produce regional averages, maximums and medians.

Averages presented here are not true seasonal averages, as data coverage over the entire season is incomplete.

**Table 4: Total PAH (derived from 24-hour samples: ng/m<sup>3</sup>) in winter and summer —Sydney, Illawarra and lower Hunter regions and all other sites**



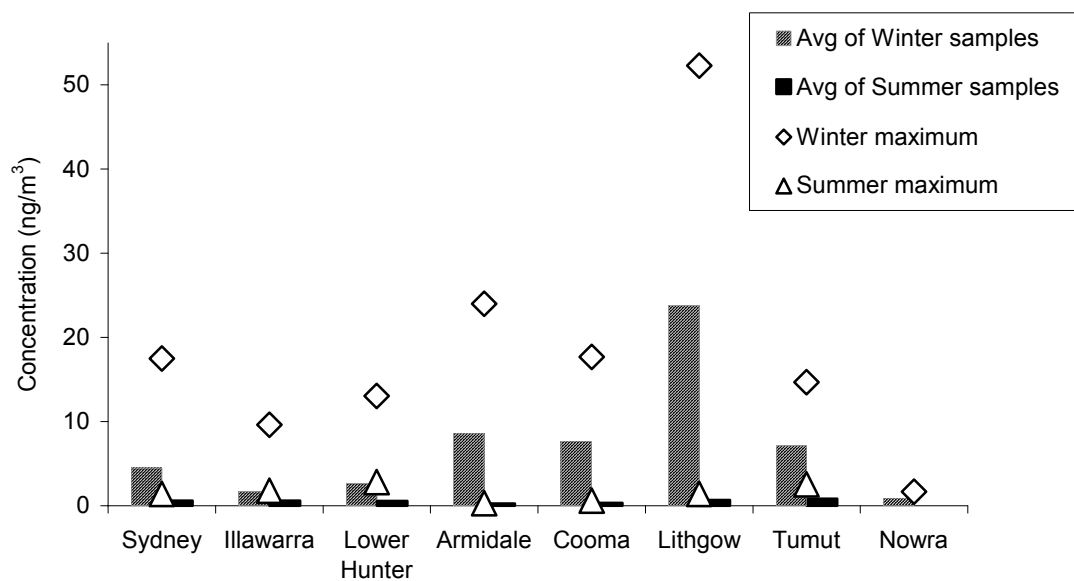
Winter								
Average	4.47	1.71	2.68	8.62	7.68	23.8	7.16	0.92
Max.	17.5	9.62	13.0	24.0	17.7	52.3	14.7	1.67
Number of samples	52 (6 sites)	59 (7 sites)	31 (3 sites)	5	13	14	14	6
Summer								
Average	0.62	0.62	0.56	0.28	0.33	0.69	0.82	–
Max.	1.39	1.79	2.82	0.32	0.59	1.42	2.55	–
Number of samples	14 (4 sites)	8 (2 sites)	11 (3 sites)	2	4	4	4	nil

Concentrations in Lithgow during winter were considerably higher than at other sites. The average concentration at Lithgow of 23.8 ng/m<sup>3</sup> was approximately three times that of the other three Great Dividing Range sites and five times that of the Sydney region average of 4.47 ng/m<sup>3</sup>. The Illawarra and lower Hunter regions reported lower average concentrations than Sydney. Only limited samples were collected during summer, and these showed very little difference in total PAH concentrations between the regions.

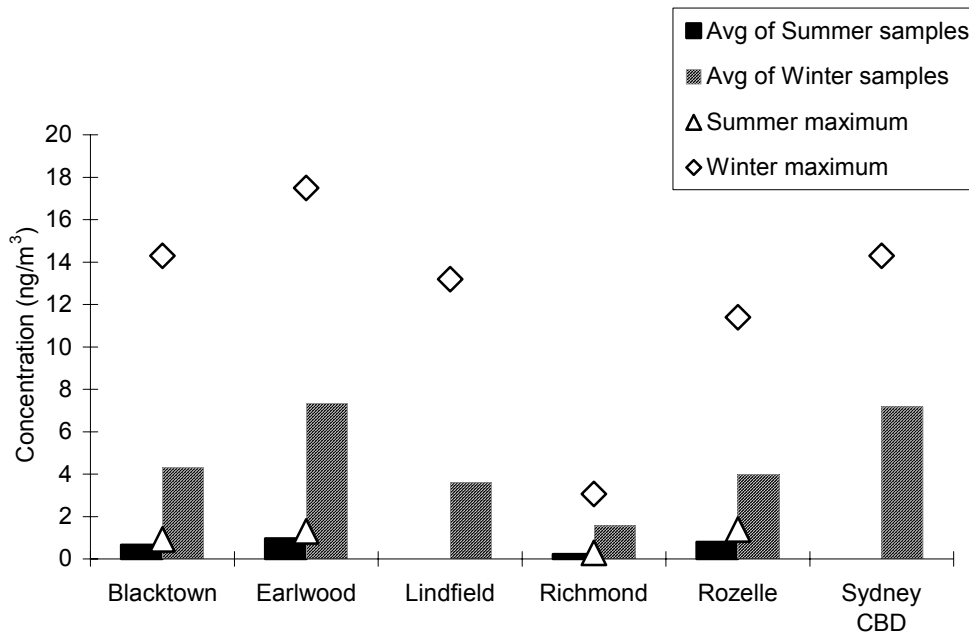
There was consistency in the data within each season for sites in the Illawarra region. Results for sites in the lower Hunter region were also similar within each season (see Appendix 5). There was greater variability across the Sydney sites than in the lower Hunter and Illawarra (see Figure 6), warranting a more detailed analysis. Earlwood and the Sydney CBD reported winter values greater than 7 ng/m<sup>3</sup>, similar to those at several of the Great Dividing Range sites. Both average and maximum concentrations at Richmond were lower than at the other Sydney sites in both winter and summer.

**Table 5: Total PAH (derived from 24-hour samples: ng/m<sup>3</sup>) in winter and summer —Sydney sites**

<b>Winter</b>						
Average	4.29	7.35	3.59	1.56	3.97	7.17
Max.	14.3	17.5	13.2	3.07	11.4	14.3
Number of samples	10	10	12	8	8	4
<b>Summer</b>						
Average	0.67	0.97	–	0.22	0.80	–
Max.	0.92	1.30	–	0.29	1.39	–
Number of samples	4	2	nil	4	4	nil



**Figure 5: Seasonal variations in total PAH (derived from 24-hour samples: ng/m<sup>3</sup>)—Sydney, Illawarra and lower Hunter regions and all other sites**



**Figure 6: Seasonal variations in total PAH (derived from 24-hour samples: ng/m<sup>3</sup>)—Sydney sites**

Overall, the average winter total PAH concentrations were two to ten times higher than the summer concentrations at the urban sites, but between eight and thirty-five times higher in the colder Great Dividing Range sites. The concentrations in autumn (Armidale, one sample; Tumut, five samples) and spring (Lithgow, eight samples; Tumut, six samples) were much lower than winter concentrations of PAHs (see Appendix 5). This limited sampling conducted in other seasons confirmed that ambient PAH concentrations are higher in winter.

### 3.2.1 Analysis of PAH Results

Even though the sample size differed significantly between summer and winter, the seasonal differences are clear and statistically robust. Table 6 presents the results of *t*-tests of the seasonal difference in average total PAH concentration using log-transformed data for each site, each region, and the data as a whole. Table 6 shows that the average total PAH concentration for summer is significantly less than that for winter ( $P \leq 0.05$ ) for all but three sites. Average total PAH concentrations for summer were less than for winter at Earlwood, Newcastle and Wollongong, but these differences were not statistically significant ( $P \geq 0.056$ ,  $P \geq 0.082$  and  $P \geq 0.232$  respectively). Given the low sample size and measurement uncertainty, detection of inter-seasonal variation was not possible in this study for these three sites.

**Table 6: Comparison of seasonal average concentration**

				$P(t \leq T)^1$
Blacktown	0.67	4.29	6.4	< 0.001
Earlwood	0.97	7.35	7.6	<b>0.056</b>
Richmond	0.22	1.56	7.0	< 0.001
Rozelle	0.80	3.97	5.0	0.021
Warrawong	0.50	2.63	5.2	0.021
Wollongong	0.73	1.24	1.7	<b>0.232</b>
Beresfield	0.42	1.49	3.6	0.048
Newcastle	0.86	2.93	3.4	<b>0.082</b>
Wallsend	0.35	3.59	10.2	< 0.001
Armidale	0.28	8.62	31.1	0.019
Cooma	0.33	7.68	23.3	< 0.001
Lithgow	0.69	23.80	34.6	< 0.001
Tumut	0.82	7.16	8.7	0.015
				< 0.001

1. Probability that the means come from the same population— $P$  values  $>0.05$  are in **bold** and indicate where the difference is **not** significant at the 0.05 level.  $t$ -Tests of means with unequal variance were performed on the log-transformed data.

The noted differences between summer and winter may in part be explained by the different emission sources present in the cooler part of the year. The most significant of these is likely to be domestic solid fuel heaters. Burning of solid fuels for home heating is widespread throughout NSW, particularly in cooler regions such as the Great Dividing Range sites. Table 7 summarises estimates of fuel usage from the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE). The table shows that per capita wood fuel usage is considerably greater in rural areas than in the major urban centres. In addition, Kamens *et al.* (1986) showed that the PAHs in wood smoke decay in sunlight at different rates according to temperature. The half-life of various PAHs is 30 to 60 minutes at 20°C, whereas it could be hours or days at -7°C.

The Great Dividing Range sites are generally colder than Sydney during the winter (see Table 8), so greater usage of home heating would be expected. This is consistent with the higher concentrations of PAHs measured at these sites. The exceptions are the Sydney CBD and Earlwood sites, with averages similar to those at Armidale, Cooma and Tumut. One possible explanation could be the elevated emissions from vehicles due to the colder days, coupled with the traffic volume in these dense urban areas.

**Table 7: Fuel use in New South Wales**

				Per capita (gigajoules)
Urban	6501	1.60	9.3	2.29
Rural	23763.2	12.0	4.4	2.22

1. Based on sales data. Does not include coal provided free of charge (for domestic use) to employees of mining companies in the Lithgow area.

Data from ABARE provided by Ministry of Energy and Utilities: Personal communication, Annexure 1, Table 2.2, Fuel use in NSW residential sector (1995–1996). Per capita usage calculated from 1996 census data.

**Table 8: Average minimum temperature—winter 2002**

			Average minimum temperature (°C) August 2002
Lithgow	2.2	0.1	1.5
Cooma	-1.2	-3.1	-2.8
Sydney	9.7	7.9	9.8

Source: Bureau of Meteorology (2002)

### 3.3 Summary of BaP

The UK and the EC recommend the use of BaP as a surrogate for total PAH for the development of annual goals (see section 1.1). The EC has adopted an annual goal of 1.0 ng BaP/m<sup>3</sup>, while the UK has adopted a more stringent annual goal of 0.25 ng BaP/m<sup>3</sup>. As these goals are expressed as annual averages it is not possible to directly compare them with concentrations measured in this study, as sampling was done primarily in winter rather than throughout the year. However, seasonal averages of BaP do provide indications of sites that could exceed these goals.

BaP data from sites in the Sydney, Illawarra and lower Hunter regions have been amalgamated to produce regional averages, maximums and medians for summer and winter and are presented in Figure 7 and Table 9 along with data from Nowra, Cooma, Armidale, Tumut and Lithgow. As with total PAHs there was greater variability across the Sydney sites than in the lower Hunter and the Illawarra, warranting a more detailed analysis (Figure 8 and Table 10).

**Table 9: BaP (derived from 24-hour samples: ng/m<sup>3</sup>) in winter and summer  
—Sydney, Illawarra and lower Hunter regions and all other sites**

<b>Winter</b>								
Average	0.46	0.16	0.30	1.30	1.12	4.21	1.12	0.07
Max.	2.25	1.21	1.92	3.77	3.02	8.99	3.06	0.07
Number of samples	52 (6 sites)	59 (7 sites)	31 (3 sites)	5	13	14	14	6
<b>Summer</b>								
Average	0.03	0.03	0.06	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.09	-
Max.	0.07	0.07	0.40	0.02	0.04	0.07	0.27	-
Number of samples	14 (4 sites)	8 (2 sites)	11 (3 sites)	2	4	4	4	Nil

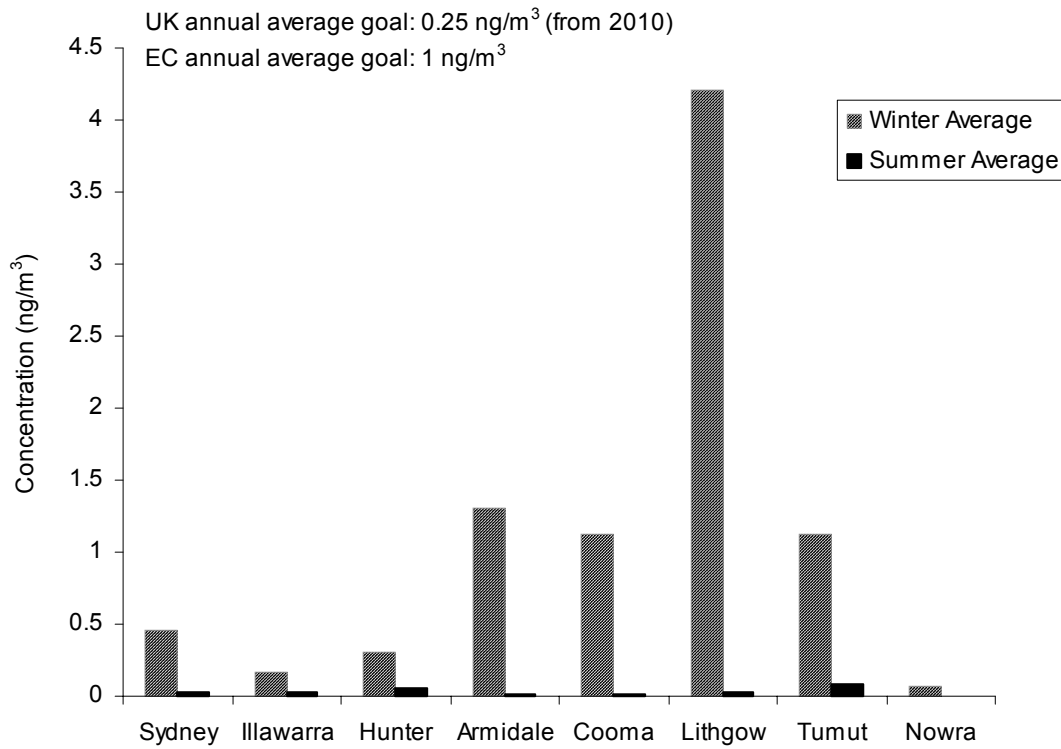
**Table 10: BaP (derived from 24-hour samples: ng/m<sup>3</sup>) in winter and summer  
—Sydney sites**

<b>Winter</b>						
Average	0.43	0.76	0.39	0.14	0.38	0.77
Max.	1.92	2.25	1.67	0.32	1.35	1.68
Number of samples	10	10	12	8	8	4
<b>Summer</b>						
Average	0.04	0.02	–	0.02	0.05	–
Max.	0.07	0.02	–	0.02	0.07	–
Number of samples	4	2	Nil	4	4	Nil

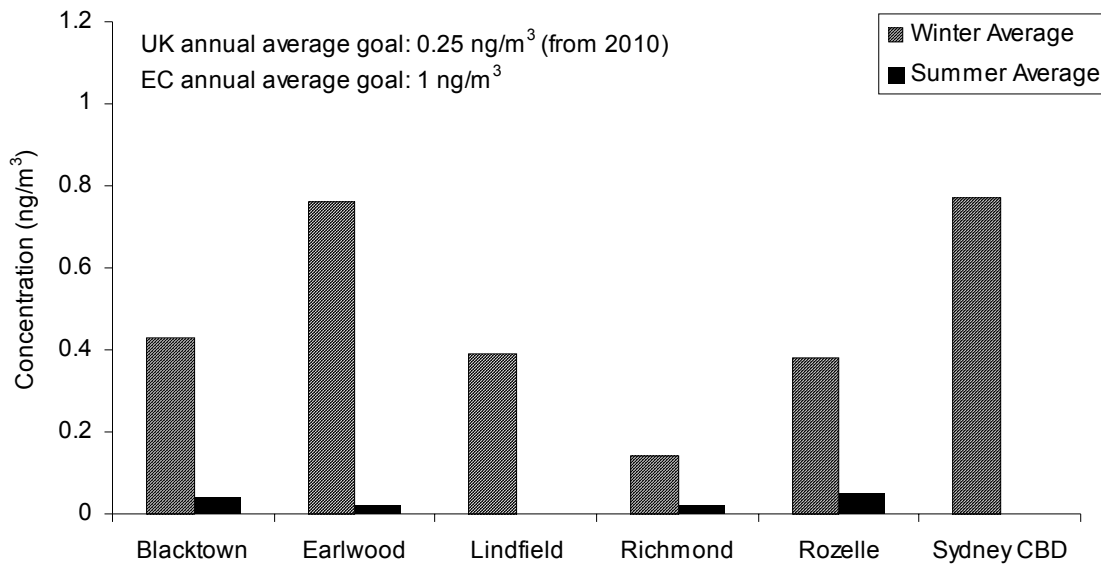
There is strong seasonality in the BaP concentrations and substantial regional differences, with the results following a similar trend to total PAHs. The Great Dividing Range sites show higher concentrations of BaP, especially in winter. This is most pronounced for Lithgow, where the average winter concentration was 4.21 ng/m<sup>3</sup>.

Given the strong seasonality in the concentrations, annual concentrations are likely to be between a quarter and a half of those in winter. Figure 9 shows the median, average and maximum concentrations of BaP at each site in winter. The data trend suggests that an extrapolated annual average for Nowra and all sites in the Illawarra and lower Hunter would meet the UK goal of 0.25 ng/m<sup>3</sup>. Similarly, extrapolations for most sites in Sydney would also meet the UK goal, except possibly Earlwood and the Sydney CBD. It is anticipated that all Great Dividing Range sites would exceed the UK goal given that each reported an average winter concentration greater than four times the goal. On the basis of the winter averages and the observed inter-seasonal variation, it is likely that all sites, except Lithgow, would meet the EC annual goal of 1.0 ng BaP/m<sup>3</sup>.

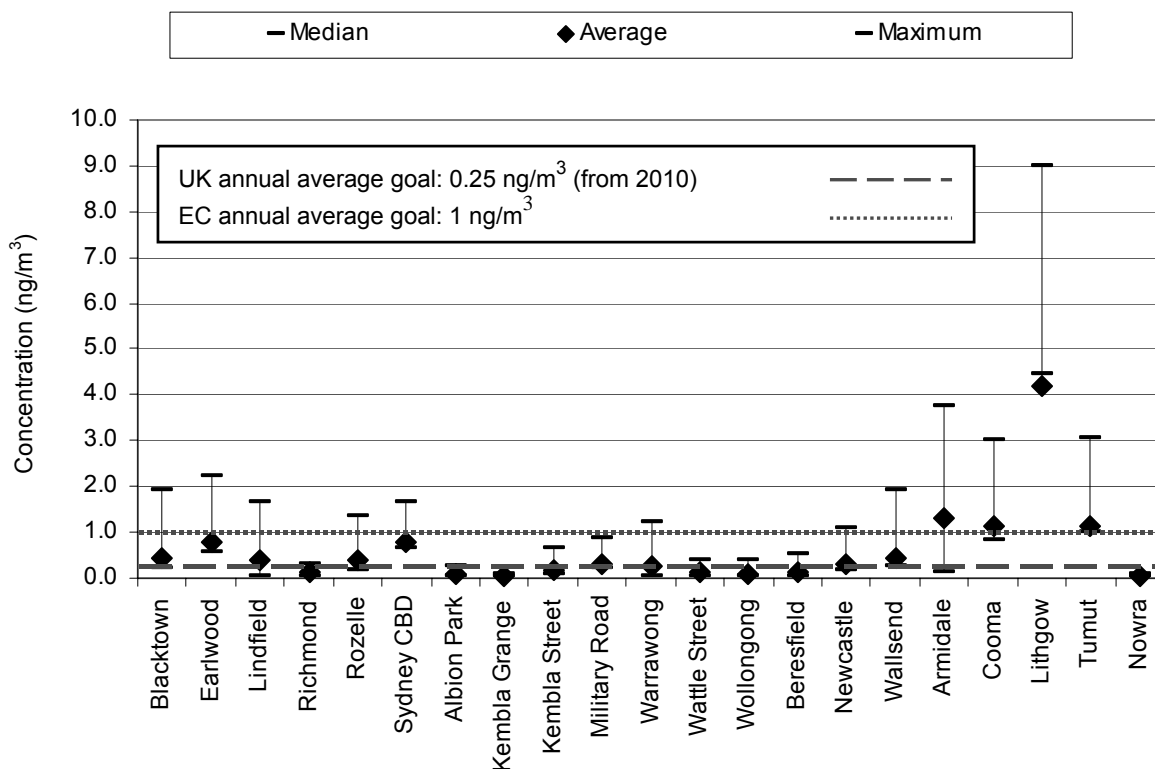




**Figure 7: Seasonal variations in BaP—Sydney, Illawarra and lower Hunter regions and all other sites**



**Figure 8: Seasonal variations in BaP—Sydney sites**



**Figure 9: Average winter BaP concentration and annual goals**

Although concentrations of total PAHs at Armidale, Cooma, Lithgow, Tumut, Sydney CBD and Earlwood were similar, total PAH concentrations at Armidale, Cooma, Lithgow and Tumut comprised a relatively higher proportion of BaP than in the Sydney CBD and Earlwood. Analysis of the composition of emissions from motor vehicles (Pistikopoulos *et al.* 1990) and wood smoke (Freeman and Cattell 1990) shows a greater proportion of BaP in wood smoke. Therefore, the greater proportion of BaP found at the Great Dividing Range sites is consistent with the greater use of solid fuel heaters in those areas. The lower proportion of BaP found in the Sydney CBD and at Earlwood indicates that emissions come from a greater range of sources in the city, with motor vehicles potentially having a greater influence.

### 3.4 Toxicity—BaP Equivalence

The significance to human health of PAHs lies not only in the concentration found, but also in their relative toxicity. Finlayson-Pitts and Pitts (2000) summarised potency equivalence factors (PEF) from two works (see Table 11). The two estimates of PEF are different for some PAHs, although both use BaP as a reference compound, setting its PEF to 1.0. In this report, BaP equivalence is calculated by using the PEF values from the California Air Resources Board (CARB), which provides more PEFs than Nielson (Table 11).

The toxicity equivalent (TEQ) for a sample is the sum of the toxicities of the contributing species. The concentration of each contributing species is multiplied by its PEF, and these are then summed. Of the PAHs for which CARB report PEF, seven were included in this study. TEQ has been calculated from these seven PAH species. Figure 10 shows the average BaP equivalence by site and season. Figure 11 shows the average contribution from the seven

PAH species to TEQ. Contributions to TEQ, presented in Figure 11, were calculated from all samples collected at all sites (except Orange) in winter (194) and summer (47).

From the scale on Figure 11, it is clear that BaP dominates the TEQ, contributing to 53% in summer and 62% in winter for the regionally aggregated data. This is consistent with findings used in the development of the UK goal, where BaP was also found to be the largest contributor to overall toxicity. BaP has been shown to make a consistent contribution to the total carcinogenic activity of predominantly particle-bound PAHs on the basis of carcinogenic potency factors and measured annual average concentrations at a wide range of European sites, including the UK, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden (European Commission 2001).

**Table 11: Potency equivalence factors**

		PEF (CARB 1994) <sup>1</sup>
5-Methylchrysene	-	1.0
Benz(a)anthracene	0.005	0.1
<b>BaP</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Benzo(b)fluoranthene	0.05	0.1
Benzo(g,h,i)perylene	0.02	-
Benzo(j)fluoranthene	0.05	0.1
Benzo(k)fluoranthene	0.05	0.1
Chrysene	0.03	0.01
Cyclopenta(c,d)pyrene	0.02	-
Dibenz(a,h)anthracene	-	0.4
Dibenzo(a,e)pyrene	-	1.0
Dibenzo(a,h)pyrene	-	10.0
Dibenzo(a,i)pyrene	-	10.0
Dibenzo(a,l)pyrene	-	10.0
Indeno(1,2,3-c,d)pyrene	0.1	0.1

1. Transcribed from Finlayson-Pitts and Pitts (2000)

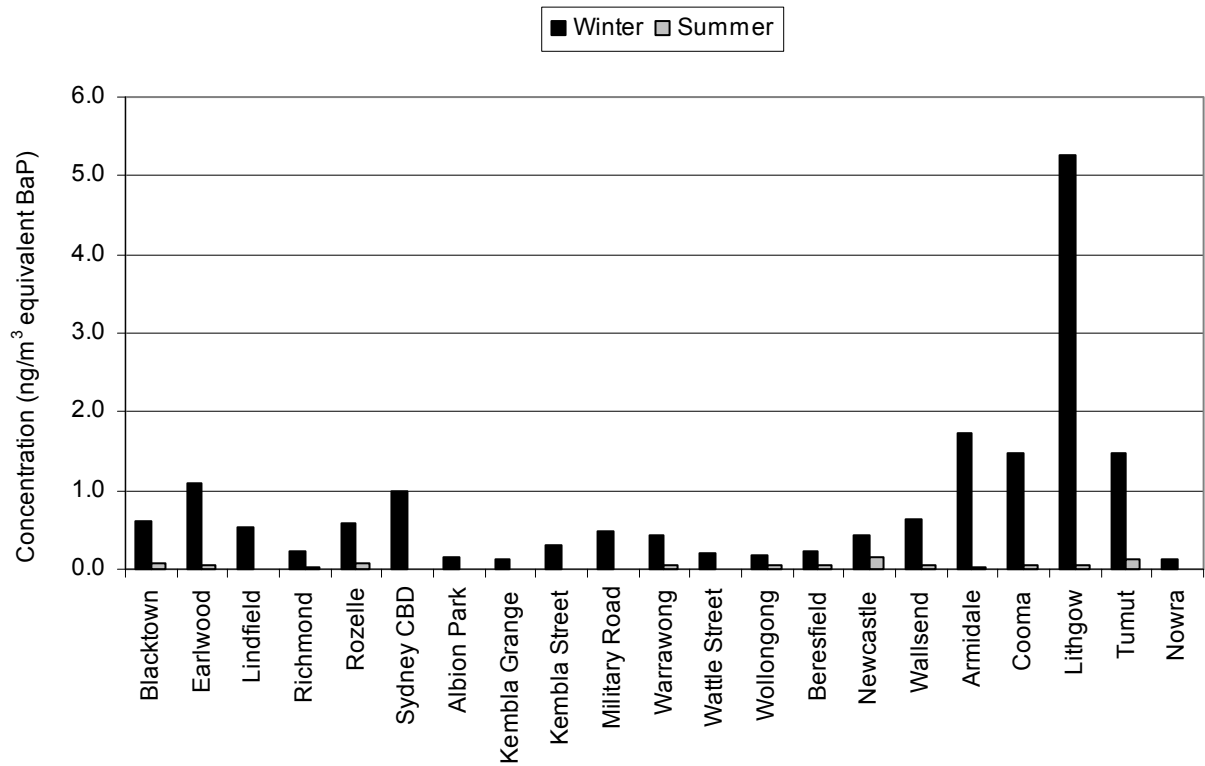


Figure 10: Average BaP equivalence by site and season

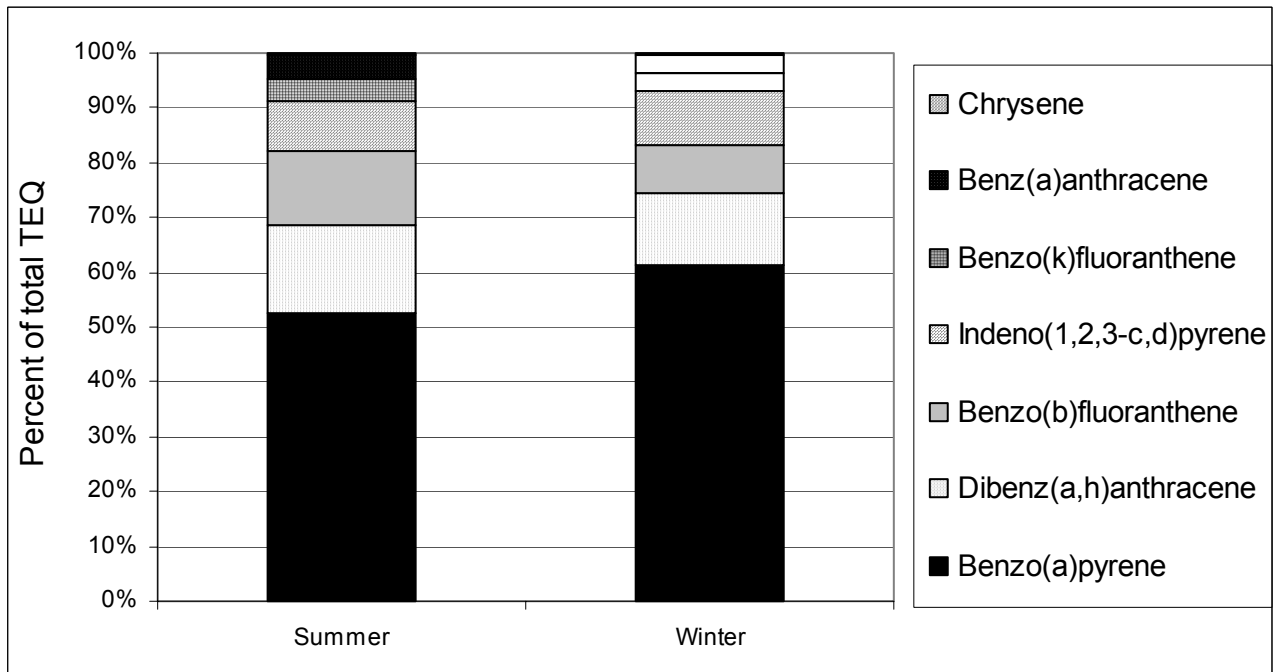


Figure 11: Seasonal average contribution to TEQ

## 4 Conclusions

This screening survey of PAH concentrations in NSW provides an initial description of the concentrations of particulate PAH species. Although caution is needed when analysing the results owing to the small number of samples, the survey has shown that:

- There is significant variation in concentrations between regions in winter; the Great Dividing Range sites show significantly higher winter averages. This is likely to be due to the greater use of solid fuels for heating in these regions.
- Despite the lack of samples in summer months, the strong seasonal variation is statistically significant, with winter concentrations between two and more than twenty times greater than the summer concentrations.
- While annual averages cannot be calculated from these data, the BaP winter average is sufficiently large at some regional sites to exceed some international annual goals.
- From the use of potency equivalence factors derived by CARB, BaP predominates among the seven PAHs contributing to TEQ, contributing from 53% in summer to 62% in winter.

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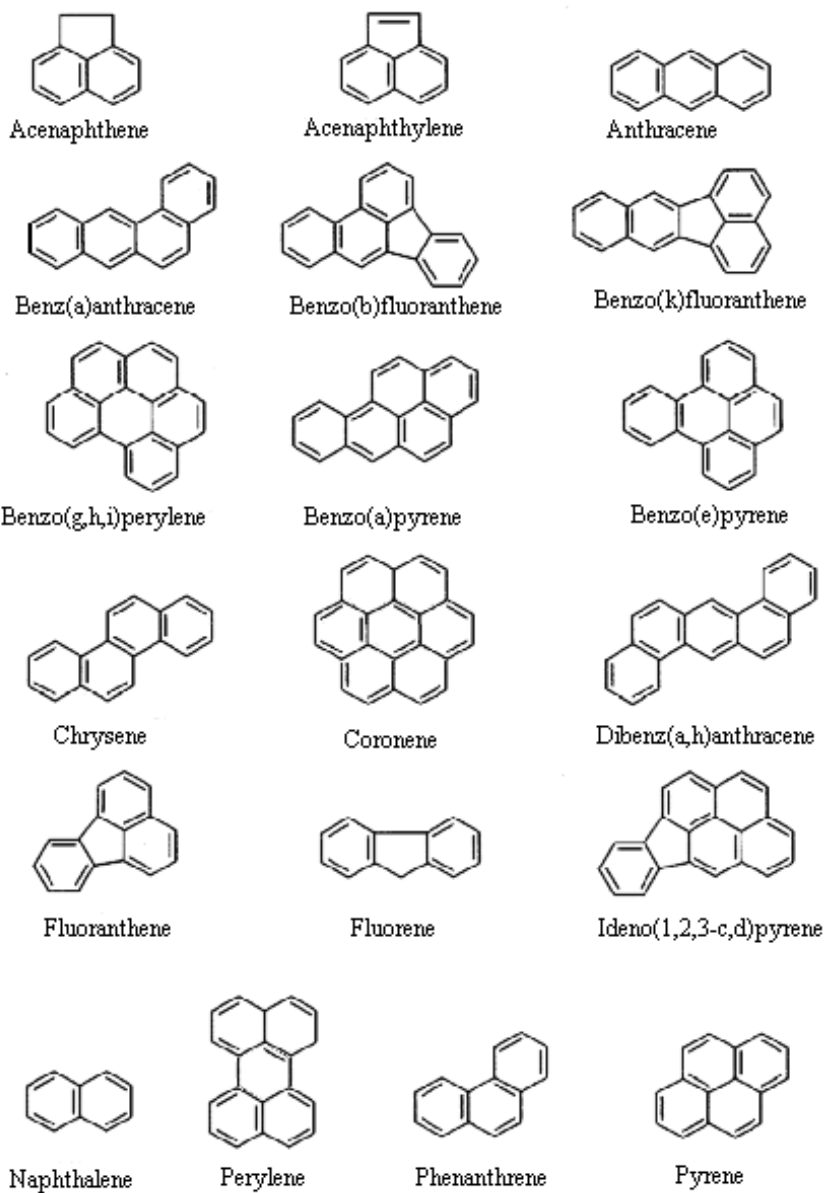
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## Appendix 1 Ring structures of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons



## **Appendix 2 Detailed location of the sampling sites**

### **Sydney Region**

#### ***Blacktown***

The Blacktown monitoring station is in the car park within the Blacktown Council Depot on Swinson Road. Solvents are stored on site. Houses and small buildings surround the area. Roads near the site carry traffic from the Western Motorway (3 km south of the site) into Blacktown. Elevation above sea level is 75 m.

#### ***Earlwood***

The Earlwood monitoring station is on Riverview Road, in a residential area. Elevation above sea level is 7 m.

#### ***Lindfield***

The Lindfield monitoring station is in the grounds of the National Measurement Laboratory, Bradfield Road. The station is on lawns within the grounds, between Bradfield Road and Lady Game Drive. Trees are scattered around the area, and there are no major roads nearby. Elevation above sea level is 60 m.

#### ***Richmond***

The Richmond monitoring station is within the grounds of the University of Western Sydney. The station is located in an open, flat, grassy paddock within the University farm, about 50 m from a car park. Elevation above sea level is 21 m.

#### ***Rozelle***

The Rozelle monitoring station is in the grounds of Rozelle Hospital on Balmain Road. Monitoring is conducted at the north-western end of the hospital grounds, some 300 m from Victoria Road and Darling St. Elevation above sea level is 22 m.

#### ***Sydney***

The Sydney CBD monitoring station is on the corner of George and Market Streets, adjacent to a very a high traffic area. Until May 2000 sampling was undertaken on the awning of the Gowings building. Since May 2000 sampling has been conducted on the awning of the Grace Brothers building on the opposite side of the intersection.

### **Illawarra Region**

#### ***Albion Park***

The Albion Park monitoring station is on Croom Rd, within the grounds of the Croom Sporting Complex. It is surrounded by residential and rural areas. Elevation above sea level is 28 m.

#### ***Kembla Grange***

The Kembla Grange monitoring station is within the grounds of Kembla Grange Racecourse, Princes Highway, in a residential/rural area. The station is approximately 500 m from the Princes Highway and the Southern Freeway. Elevation above sea level is 5 m.

#### ***Kembla Street, Port Kembla***

The Kembla Street monitoring site is within the grounds of St Patrick's Convent. It is expected that the nearby BHP complex (less than 1km away) would contribute to levels at this site.

### ***Military Road, Port Kembla***

The Military Road monitoring site is in the grounds of the fire station. It is expected that the nearby BHP complex (less than 1km away) would contribute to levels at this site.

### ***Wattle Street, Port Kembla***

The Wattle Street monitoring site is in the grounds of the electricity sub-station. It is expected that the nearby BHP complex (less than 1km away) would contribute to levels at this site.

### ***Warrawong***

The Warrawong monitoring station is in the grounds of Darcy Wentworth Park on Carlotta Crescent. It is within a residential area approximately 2 km south of the Port Kembla industrial area. Elevation above sea level is 14 m.

### ***Wollongong***

The Wollongong monitoring station is in the Australian Army Depot on Gipps St. This is in a residential area, approximately 1 km north-west of the Wollongong city centre. Elevation above sea level is 15 m.

## **Lower Hunter Region**

### ***Beresfield***

The Beresfield monitoring station is in the grounds of Francis Greenway High School, Lawson Avenue, Woodberry. This is a rural/residential area with no major roads nearby. Elevation above sea level is 14 m.

### ***Newcastle***

The Newcastle monitoring station is in the grounds of the Athletics Field on Dumaresq Street, Hamilton South. This is a residential area approximately 2 km from the Newcastle city centre. Elevation above sea level is 5 m.

### ***Wallsend***

The Wallsend monitoring station is within the grounds of the swimming pool on the corner of Frances St and John St, in a residential/open area. Elevation above sea level is 8 m.

## **Great Dividing Range**

### ***Armidale***

Armidale is a regional centre on the Northern Tablelands of NSW, 550 km north of Sydney. It has a population of 20 000 and is located in a relatively narrow shallow valley, with the majority of residential areas situated on the valley slopes. Sampling was conducted close to the bottom of the valley in the grounds of the local swimming pool. Domestic wood combustion is the major source of fine particles. Elevation above sea level is approximately 1000 m.

### ***Cooma***

Cooma is a major regional town at the northern end of the Australian Alps, approximately 325 km south-south-west of Sydney. It has a population of 7500. Domestic wood combustion is the major source of fine particles. Elevation above sea level is 1038 m.

### ***Lithgow***

Lithgow, population 12 500, lies on the western side of the Blue Mountains, 140 km west of Sydney. Situated in a steep-sided valley with numerous side gullies, Lithgow has traditionally been a mining and industrial processing town. Mining companies in the Lithgow area provide concessions to their employees, providing coal free of charge for domestic use. The sampling site was located on the roof of a vacant shop, expected to be within the overnight westerly drainage flow. Wood and coal combustion are the main sources of particles. Elevation above sea level is approximately 950 m.

### ***Tumut***

Tumut, population 5 900, lies at the northern end of the Australian Alps in the same general area as Cooma, approximately 350 km south-south-west of Sydney. Production of wood chips and domestic wood combustion are the major sources of fine particles. Sampling was undertaken within the grounds of the sewage treatment plant. Elevation above sea level is approximately 280 m.

### ***Orange***

Orange is 260 km west of Sydney and has a population of approximately 29 000. It is a major agricultural centre and is surrounded by rolling hills. The sampling site was within the grounds of Calare Primary School, west of the city centre. Wood combustion is the major source of fine particles. Elevation above sea level is approximately 830 m.

### **South Coast**

#### ***Nowra***

Nowra is approximately 120 km south of Sydney on the South Coast of NSW and has a population of nearly 24 000. It is a major centre for agricultural and fishing industries. The monitoring station is located in the Nowra sewage plant, east of the town centre.

## Appendix 3 Detailed Methodology

### 3.1 Sampling Procedure

Sample air was drawn at a flow rate of approximately  $68 \text{ m}^3\text{h}^{-1}$  through a Teflon filter paper (Pallflex Products Corporation;  $20.5 \text{ cm} \times 25.5 \text{ cm}$  Teflon-backed glass fibre filters) using a High Volume Sampler (model: Ecotech 2000) to which a size-selective inlet had been attached. The inlet makes use of the aerodynamic properties of particles to direct only those with a diameter less than  $10 \mu\text{m}$  to the filter paper (Australian Standard 3580.9.6). The filter paper is mounted beneath a protective hood to prevent material falling directly onto the paper. Sampling was carried out continuously over 24-hour periods.

The filter papers were equilibrated at constant relative humidity for at least 24 hours before and after exposure. Each paper was weighed before and after exposure in a temperature- and humidity-controlled environment in accordance with Australian Standard 3580.9.6. The mass of the unexposed filter paper is subtracted from the final mass to determine the mass of the sample collected. These data, together with the total volume of air drawn through the paper in the 24-hour period, yield the concentration (Australian Standard 2724.4).

### 3.2 Sample Details

The high-volume samplers were generally operated for a calendar day (24-hour period starting at midnight). Seven samples collected at Orange were the only exception, with a 16-hour sample period, starting at 1600 hours and ending at 0800 hours the following morning (see Appendix 6).

### 3.3 Analytical Method

#### 3.3.1 Sample Extraction

The filter papers were extracted by an accelerated solvent extractor (ASE) with a mixture of dichloromethane/acetone (1:1) as per US EPA Method 3545 (US EPA 1996). Extract analysis and quantitation are done by GC/MS operated in selected ion monitoring mode, scanning three characteristic ions for each of the nineteen PAHs of interest.

Quality control (QC) procedures used during the extraction and analysis included:

- the spiking of all samples with phenanthrene-d10 (to monitor extraction efficiency)
- incorporating a QC spike and method blank with each sample batch
- analysing a duplicate with each sample batch where practicable
- imposing control limits for surrogate recovery and matrix spike recoveries as a condition for acceptance of data
- further monitoring of extraction efficiency in conjunction with instrument calibration, by the inclusion of a spiked reference sample material in each analytical batch. The reference material contained acenaphthylene, benz(a)anthracene, benz(b)fluoranthene, benzo(g,h,i)perylene, benzo(a)pyrene, dibenz(a,h)anthracene, fluoranthene, and phenanthrene.

### 3.3.2 Materials and Instruments

dichloromethane:	nanograde (Mallinckrodt # 3023 or equiv.)
acetone:	nanograde (Mallinckrodt # 0018 or equiv.)
cyclohexane:	nanograde (Mallinckrodt # 2941 or equiv.)
pentane:	pesticide grade (Mallinckrodt # 6145 or equiv.)
diethyl ether:	pesticide grade (Mallinckrodt # 3434 or equiv.)
hexane:	pesticide grade (Mallinckrodt # 4159 or equiv.)
extraction solvent:	a 10:90 mixture of ether:hexane
ASE solvent:	a 1:1 mixture of dichloromethane:acetone
elution solvent:	a 60:40 mixture of pentane:dichloromethane
sodium sulfate, anhydrous:	Ajax cat # 137 or equiv. Heat for 4 hours at 400°C
reagent grade water:	18 megohm water

#### Silica:

100–200 mesh Davidson grade 923 (Supelco cat # 2-0296 or equiv.). Heat at 130°C for 16 hours.

#### Tetrabutyl-ammonium sulfite:

Dissolve 3.39 g of tetrabutyl-ammonium hydrogen sulfate (Ajax cat # 1180876 or equiv.) in 100 mL reagent water. Extract the solution 3 times with 20-mL aliquots of hexane. Discard the organic extracts and add 25 g sodium sulfite (Ajax cat # 510 or equiv.) to the aqueous solution. Store in an amber bottle at room temperature. Remake each month.

#### Sodium sulfate solution:

Add 25 g sodium sulfate to a 5-litre flask and make up to the mark with reagent water.

#### Boiling chips:

(BDH 33009 or equiv.) Rinse with dichloromethane. Heat at 450°C for one hour.

#### Vials:

12 mm × 32 mm 2-mL screw-top autosampler type (Varian 392604210 or equiv.).

#### QC test solution:

Acenaphthene and phenanthrene 1000 µg/mL; benz(a)anthracene, benzo(b)fluoranthene, benzo(g,h,i)perylene, benzo(a)pyrene, fluoranthene, dibenz(a,h)anthracene 100 µg/mL. (Ultra PAH Mixture EPA – 2139N, or Supelco 4-1839 or equiv.)

#### Diatomaceous earth:

Hydromatrix or equivalent. Furnace at 400°C for 3 hours before use.

#### ASE filters:

Dionex 049458, or Advantec GC50 20 mm or equivalent. Pre-extract in ASE with ASE solvent.

#### Filters:

**For PM<sub>10</sub>:** Laboratory blank and QC: glass microfibre. Whatman GF/F 4 cm or equivalent. Rinse with dichloromethane before use.

**GC/MS systems:** Integrated systems using a direct capillary interface between the GC/MS detector were used with a data system capable of data acquisition, storage and retrieval, peak integration and calibration, and ion profiling.

The instruments used were the Hewlett Packard GC/MS 5890/5970 and 6840/5973 and the Varian 3400/Saturn 2000. The GC column used was a J&W DB-5MS 30 m × 0.25 mm × 0.25 µm or equivalent.

### **3.3.3 *Limit of Detection***

Detection limits were adjusted as necessary to reflect dilutions of extract or proportion of filter paper used. These varied throughout the sampling period. Thus the limits of detection were:

- 400 ng/filter samples in July 1997 (1/8 filter paper used)
- 200 ng/filter samples in winter 1998 (1/4 filter paper used)
- 100 ng/filter samples in August 1997 (1/2 filter paper used)
- 50 ng/filter samples in 1999, 2000 and 2001 (whole filter paper used).



## Appendix 4      Sensitivity to Treatment of Species with Concentrations Below the Detection Limit

In samples collected in this study the concentration of one or more PAH species was reported as less than the detection limit for the analytical method. Where a PAH species was below the limit of detection, a nominal concentration of half the detection limit was set. Enough species were below the detection limit that their treatment could have influenced analysis of the data.

The sensitivity of the data set to treatment of these instances is tested by:

- setting the value to the detection limit
- setting the value to half the detection limit
- setting the value to zero.

Differences in results of this analysis indicate whether the number of such observations is sufficient to skew statistical measures such as the mean and standard deviation. Observations of a low but not well-determined concentration may mask underlying structure in the data if there are enough of them.

### Comparison of Differing Assumptions for Concentrations Below the Detection Limit

Three approaches to handling concentrations below the detection limit have been used: setting the concentration to zero, setting it to half the detection limit and setting it to the detection limit. Total PAH was determined using each of these measures, giving three total PAH data sets. The three data sets were then stratified by site and season and tested pairwise by *t*-test to determine the probability (*P*) that the observed difference between the calculated means occurred by chance alone.

Table 4.1 shows the results for those sites and seasons for which at least one of the pairs showed differing means with a probability that this has occurred by chance of less than 0.05.

**Table 4.1: Sites and seasons where treatment of concentrations below the detection limit had a significant effect on mean total PAH**

				half-limit and zero
Kembla Grange	winter	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Richmond	summer	<0.001	<0.002	<0.009
Nowra	winter	<0.001	<0.009	<0.038
Albion Park	winter	<0.002	<0.038	<0.099
Wollongong	winter	<0.020	<0.166	<0.243
Cooma	summer	<0.029	<0.092	<0.201

Table 4.1 shows that results from six sites were greatly influenced by treatment of concentrations below the detection limit. For these samples, concentrations below the detection limit for the method make a significant contribution to the dataset, and the calculated means are influenced by the value chosen for these concentrations. The analysis shows that accuracy and reliability of total calculated PAH values increases with increasing concentration of PAH and larger sample size.

## Appendix 5 Summary Totals by Site

### 5.1 Summary Total PAH

Tables 5.1 to 5.4 present the median, mean and maximum concentrations of total PAH (based on the 11 PAH species referred to in section 1.2) at each site and aggregated by region for spring, summer, autumn and winter respectively.

**Table 5.1: Summary of results, total PAH—spring**

Region	Number of Sites	Median	Mean	Maximum
Greater Sydney	4	0.69	0.67	0.92
Other Sydney	2	0.97	0.97	1.30
Central Coast	4	0.21	0.22	0.29
North Coast	4	0.77	0.80	1.39
<b>Total</b>				<b>7.19</b>

**Table 5.2: Summary of results, total PAH—summer**

Region	Number of Sites	Median	Mean	Maximum
Greater Sydney	4	0.69	0.67	0.92
Other Sydney	2	0.97	0.97	1.30
Central Coast	4	0.21	0.22	0.29
North Coast	4	0.77	0.80	1.39
<b>Total</b>				<b>1.79</b>
Warrarong	4	0.36	0.50	1.11
Wollongong	4	0.41	0.73	1.79
<b>Total</b>				<b>2.82</b>
Beresfield	3	0.49	0.42	0.58
Newcastle	4	0.22	0.86	2.82
Wallsend	4	0.36	0.35	0.51
<b>Total</b>				<b>0.51</b>
Armidale	2	0.28	0.28	0.32
Cooma	4	0.27	0.33	0.59
Lithgow	4	0.47	0.69	1.42
Tumut	4	0.27	0.82	2.55

**Table 5.3: Summary of results, total PAH—autumn**

				14.23

**Table 5.4: Summary of results, total PAH—winter**

				17.48
Blacktown	10	2.82	4.29	14.3
Earlwood	10	6.01	7.35	17.48
Lindfield	12	1.60	3.59	13.18
Richmond	8	1.28	1.56	3.07
Rozelle	8	2.06	3.97	11.35
Sydney CBD	4	6.13	7.17	14.3
				9.62
Albion Park	11	0.73	1.15	2.62
Kembla Grange	8	0.70	0.77	1.15
Kembla Street	8	1.17	1.94	6.44
Military Road	5	2.50	3.43	8.21
Warrawong	10	1.02	2.63	9.62
Wattle Street	7	1.03	1.54	4.13
Wollongong	10	0.77	1.24	3.57
				13.03
Beresfield	10	0.84	1.49	4.12
				8.83
Wallsend	10	2.75	3.59	13.03
Armidale	5	2.16	8.62	24.01
Cooma	13	6.32	7.68	17.69
Lithgow	14	24.73	23.80	52.27
Tumut	14	6.38	7.16	14.7
				1.67
Nowra	6	0.77	0.92	1.67

Tables 5.1 to 5.4 show that there are differences in concentrations between sites and between seasons. These are explored further in section 3.2. Figures 5.1 and 5.2 show the median, average and maximum for each site in summer and winter respectively.

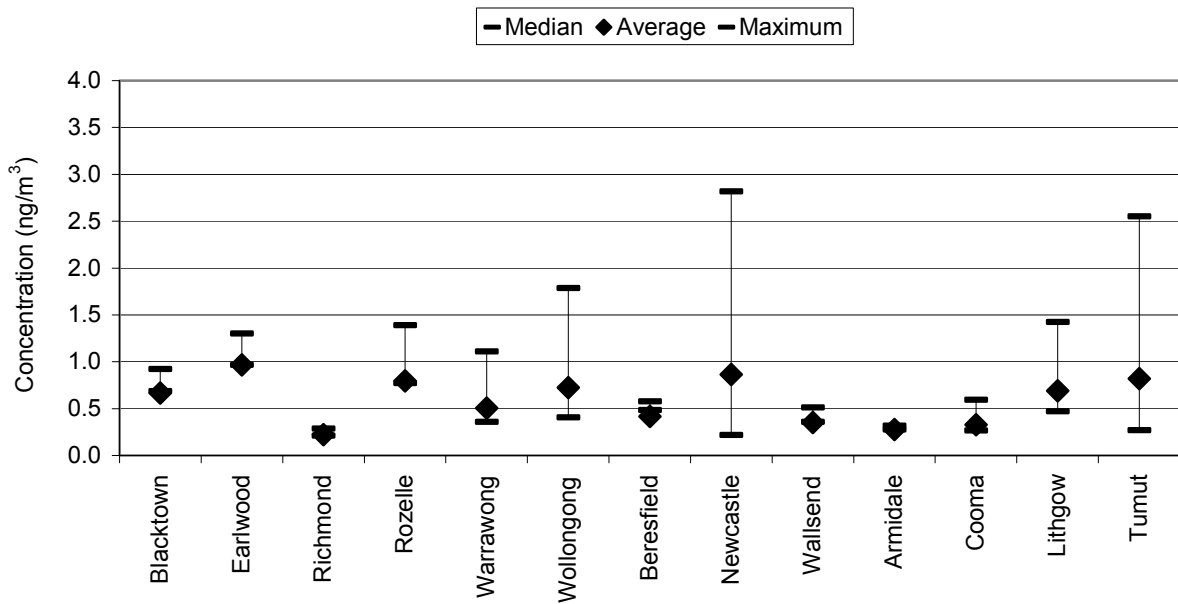


Figure 5.1: Total PAH by site for summer

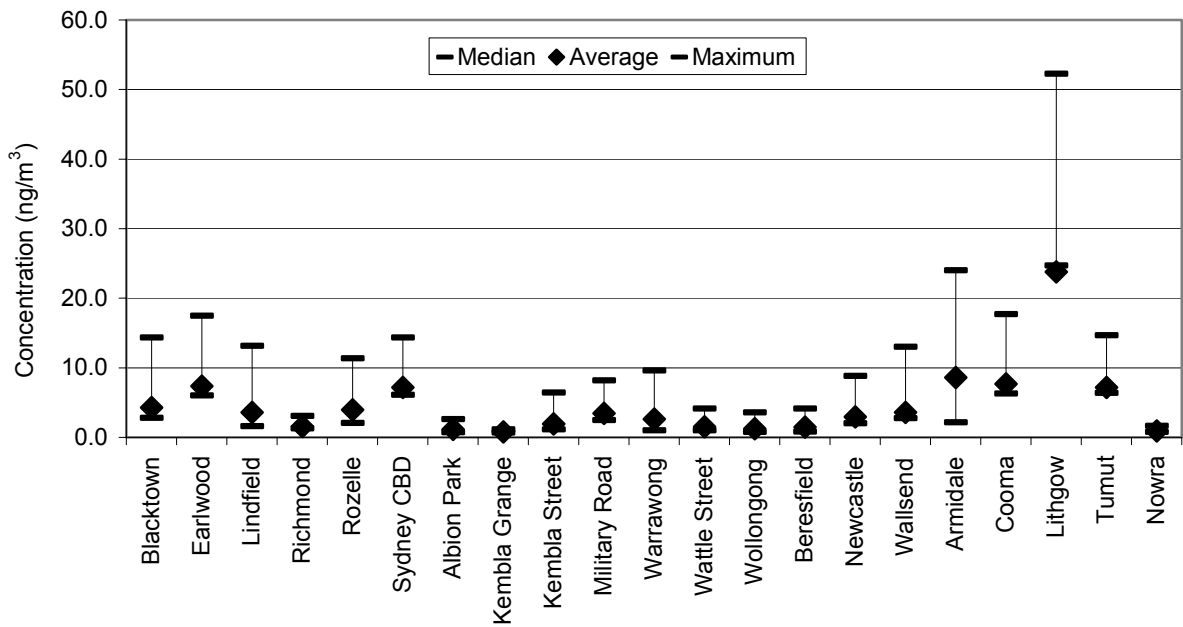


Figure 5.2: Total PAH by site for winter

## 5.2 Summary of BaP

Tables 5.5 to 5.8 present the median, average and maximum concentrations of BaP at each site for spring, summer, autumn, and winter respectively. Sites are grouped by geographic region.

**Table 5.5: Summary of results, BaP—spring**

Region	Number of Sites	Median Concentration (ng/m <sup>3</sup> )	Average Concentration (ng/m <sup>3</sup> )	Maximum Concentration (ng/m <sup>3</sup> )
Greater Sydney	4	0.02	0.02	0.07
Warrarong	4	0.02	0.02	0.05
Wollongong	4	0.02	0.03	0.07
Other	4	0.02	0.02	0.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0.10</b>

**Table 5.6: Summary of results, BaP—summer**

Region	Number of Sites	Median Concentration (ng/m <sup>3</sup> )	Average Concentration (ng/m <sup>3</sup> )	Maximum Concentration (ng/m <sup>3</sup> )
Greater Sydney	4	0.04	0.04	0.07
Earlwood	2	0.02	0.02	0.02
Richmond	4	0.02	0.02	0.02
Rozelle	4	0.05	0.05	0.07
Warrarong	4	0.02	0.02	0.05
Wollongong	4	0.02	0.03	0.07
Other	4	0.02	0.03	0.04
Beresfield	3	0.02	0.03	0.05
Newcastle	4	0.02	0.11	0.40
Wallsend	4	0.02	0.02	0.04
Armidale	2	0.02	0.02	0.02
Cooma	4	0.02	0.03	0.04
Lithgow	4	0.02	0.03	0.07
Tumut	4	0.03	0.09	0.27

**Table 5.7: Summary of results, BaP—autumn**

				2.45

**Table 5.8: Summary of results, BaP—winter**

				2.25
Blacktown	10	0.22	0.43	1.92
Earlwood	10	0.55	0.76	2.25
Lindfield	12	0.06	0.39	1.67
Richmond	8	0.06	0.14	0.32
Rozelle	8	0.16	0.38	1.35
Sydney CBD	4	0.64	0.77	1.68
				1.21
Albion Park	11	0.06	0.09	0.26
Kembla Grange	8	0.06	0.06	0.07
Kembla Street	8	0.08	0.18	0.65
Military Road	5	0.22	0.32	0.87
Warrawong	10	0.06	0.27	1.21
Wattle Street	7	0.05	0.12	0.38
Wollongong	10	0.06	0.11	0.38
				1.92
Beresfield	10	0.07	0.15	0.52
				1.09
Wallsend	10	0.26	0.45	1.92
Armidale	5	0.14	1.30	3.77
Cooma	13	0.84	1.12	3.02
Lithgow	14	4.45	4.21	8.99
Tumut	14	1.01	1.12	3.06
				0.07
Nowra	6	0.06	0.07	0.07

## Appendix 6 PAH Concentrations in Orange

Seven overnight samples were collected at Orange in the winter of 1997. Samples from Orange were collected over 16-hour periods starting at 1600 hours and ending at 0800 hours the following morning. As with the 24-hour samples, air was drawn at a flow rate of approximately  $68 \text{ m}^3\text{h}^{-1}$  through a Teflon filter paper.

Average total PAH for these samples was  $10.9 \text{ ng/m}^3$ , which was greater than at the Great Dividing Range sites of Armidale, Cooma and Tumut, but considerably less than at Lithgow. The maximum total PAH concentration from a 16-hour sample was  $30.7 \text{ ng/m}^3$ .

The average concentration of BaP measured at Orange was  $1.46 \text{ ng/m}^3$ , and the maximum was  $4.34 \text{ ng/m}^3$ .

These overnight samples are expected to measure higher concentrations than the 24-hour samples collected elsewhere in this study, as they cover hours of less atmospheric dispersion and often greater use of heaters. During daytime hours (from 0900 to 1500) lower concentrations would be expected as mixing heights increase.