

Emergency air quality monitoring in response to bushfires

Our monitors are providing affected communities with hourly air quality information



Science Division (Environment Energy and Science Group) has deployed a series of temporary emergency incident air quality monitoring instruments in response to the NSW bushfire emergency.

Our science team is working around the clock on emergency monitoring of these fires, and for residents, data is available online. We are also working with the NSW Rural Fire Service and the Bureau of Meteorology to understand wildfire conditions and the likelihood of smoke persisting. This gives a broader outlook on winds and weather conditions that exacerbate air quality in New South Wales.

Where have the incident monitors been installed?

- Coffs Harbour
- Port Macquarie
- Lismore
- Grafton
- Taree
- Ulladulla
- Batemans Bay
- Merimbula
- Cooma

See over the page for a detailed list of incident monitoring sites.



Why were these sites chosen?

The Port Macquarie site was requested by NSW Health in late July 2019.

All other locations have been based on population centres expected to be most affected by smoke during the bushfire emergency.

Temporary incident air monitors

Location	Type of monitor
Coffs Harbour Compliance monitoring station Activated 23 November 2019	Emergency monitoring station Dust track
Port Macquarie Deployed 27 July 2019	Rapid response pod
Lismore Deployed 24 November 2019	Rapid response pod
Grafton Deployed 23 November 2019	DustTrak
Taree Deployed 23 November 2019	DustTrak
Ulladulla Deployed 8 December 2019	DustTrak
Batemans Bay Deployed 10 December 2019	DustTrak
Merimbula Deployed 13 January 2020	DustTrak
Cooma Deployed 13 January 2020	DustTrak

What monitors do we use?

Compliance air quality monitoring stations

- Measures nitric oxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, ozone, visibility and PM10, PM2.5, ambient temperature, humidity, wind direction and wind speed.

Rapid response air monitoring pod and emergency monitoring stations

- Portable version of our full-service air quality monitoring station, able to be deployed rapidly
- Measures nitric oxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, ozone, visibility and PM10, PM2.5, ambient temperature, humidity, wind direction and wind speed.

DustTrak DRX Unit

- Solar powered multi-channel DustTraks used for monitoring particles only.
- These monitors report Total Suspended Particles, PM10 and PM2.5.

For more information

Find out more about our incident air quality monitoring and for hourly updates visit our website:

www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/air-quality/live-air-quality-data-special-projects-monitoring

Cover photo: Coffs Harbour skyline after a fire, DPIE.
Above left to right: Air quality monitoring station, DPIE; Incident monitoring pod, DPIE; DustTrak system set up, DPIE.

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ISBN: 978-1-922318-41-1

EES2020/0067 February 2020