



## Office of the Hon Gabrielle Upton MP

Minister for the Environment  
Minister for Local Government  
Minister for Heritage

MD17/334

Mr Andrew Doig  
CEO  
Australian Sustainable Business Group (ASBG)  
PO Box 326  
WILLOUGHBY NSW 2068

By email: [andrew@asbg.net.au](mailto:andrew@asbg.net.au)

Dear Mr Doig

I refer to your email to the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Gabrielle Upton MP, about the *Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in New South Wales 2016* (Approved Methods). I acknowledge that you also wrote to Minister Upton congratulating her on her appointment and ask that this be accepted as a reply to all correspondence.

While I am unable to comment on the communication between yourself and the previous Minister for the Environment, the Hon Mark Speakman SC MP, I can confirm that environment ministers from all jurisdictions agreed to strengthen national ambient air quality reporting standards for airborne fine particles at the National Environment Protection Council meeting in December 2015. The agreement took into account the latest scientific evidence of health impacts and gave due consideration to material received via the formal consultation process.

In light of the contemporary scientific evidence presented by the National Environment Protection Council review, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) identified the need to revise the particle impact assessment criteria in the Approved Methods.

The Approved Methods details the statutory methods that are to be used to model and assess emissions of air pollutants from stationary sources in NSW. The Approved Methods impact assessment criteria are applied when assessing predicted ground level concentrations and the document states clearly they are not used as limit conditions in environment protection licences.

The EPA will not retrospectively reference the Approved Methods 2016 to existing facilities. They will be referenced when evaluating air quality impact assessments submitted as part of any planning application on or after the gazettal date of 20 January 2017. For air quality impact assessments submitted before 20 January 2017, the EPA will reference the Approved Methods dated 20 August 2005.

Further information on the Approved Methods can be found at [www.epa.nsw.gov.au/air/appmethods.htm](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/air/appmethods.htm).

If you have any further questions about this issue, please contact Mr Anthony Savage, Manager Air Technical Advisory Services Unit, EPA on 9995 6085 or at [anthony.savage@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:anthony.savage@epa.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



16 MAR 2017

**Kevin Wilde**  
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