



**Gabrielle Upton**  
Minister for the Environment

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### AIR QUALITY MONITORING NETWORK EXPANSION

The NSW Government's air pollution monitoring network will be expanded across the state including at hotspots close to industry and in regional NSW, Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton said today.

Three major initiatives will help the NSW Government to better understand air pollution exposure across the state, particularly in hotspots in Sydney as well as rural and regional NSW. These initiatives also respond to feedback on the NSW Government's *Clean Air for NSW Consultation Paper*, released in October last year.

"These initiatives demonstrate the NSW Government's commitment to understanding and improving air quality across NSW and will build on what is already the largest air quality monitoring network in Australia," Ms Upton said.

"The Government plays an important role in managing air quality to protect the health of NSW communities."

The expansion will include:

- Air quality monitoring to commence by the end of this year in the Namoi Valley in Gunnedah and Narrabri. The NSW Government will also work closely with the coal industry in the region to establish a North-West Air Quality Monitoring Network, providing real-time air quality data.
- Air quality monitoring will be reinstated in Sydney's and Parramatta's CBDs. It will also be investigated for Penrith and for Sydney's busiest roads. In addition, a long-term roadside monitor will be installed in Sydney's CBD by the end of this year.
- From 1 January next year, the NSW Dust Watch network will become the first rural air quality monitoring network in NSW, with monitoring to expand from dust to include PM10 and PM2.5 air pollution. Dust watch monitors will be deployed in Armidale, Orange and Goulburn. Future expansion of the network to the North Coast at Coffs Harbour and Lismore will also be investigated.

"This Government championed the campaign to strengthen the national standards for airborne fine particles and as a result, NSW and Australia have the most health protective standards for fine particles in the world," Ms Upton said.

For information visit: <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/air/clean-air-nsw.htm>

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