



Our reference: DOC13/78701-1  
Contact: Janelle Pickup  
Your Reference: D13/31495

Mr Jonathan O'Dea MP  
Chair  
Public Accounts Committee  
Parliament of New South Wales  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr O'Dea

I refer to your letter dated 31 October 2013 about the Inquiry into Cogeneration and Trigeneration in NSW. I am pleased to provide the requested information on emission standards in NSW.

1. The Best Available Technique oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>) emission standard of 250mg/m<sup>3</sup> applies to all cogeneration and trigeneration engines with a capacity to burn less than 7MJ/s of natural gas in the Sydney and Wollongong Metropolitan Area and Wollondilly Local Government Area. For the rest of NSW, the NO<sub>x</sub> emission standard is 450mg/m<sup>3</sup>, as defined in the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2010*. A more stringent NO<sub>x</sub> emission standard is prescribed in the Sydney and Wollongong Metropolitan Area and Wollondilly Local Government Area as air quality in these regions currently exceeds the *National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure* goal for ozone.
2. A NO<sub>x</sub> emission standard of 50mg/m<sup>3</sup> is considered for NSW in some circumstances. The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) considers a NO<sub>x</sub> emission standard of 50mg/m<sup>3</sup> may be financially viable for plant with a capacity to burn greater than or equal to 7MJ/s of fuel. Financial viability is, however, dependent on the specific operation of the plant. It is for this reason that a specific NO<sub>x</sub> emission standard for plant with a capacity to burn greater than or equal to 7MJ/s of fuel has not been proposed and is to be determined on a case-by-case basis. The NSW EPA expects all cogeneration and trigeneration plant with a capacity greater than or equal to 7MJ/s of fuel to determine if it is practicable (taking into account financial viability and environmental impact) to achieve a NO<sub>x</sub> emission standard of less than 250mg/m<sup>3</sup>.
3. The NSW EPA reviews emission standards on a regular basis. The cogeneration and trigeneration emission standards would form part of any such review. Increase in emissions from an industry sector is one factor that is considered when reviewing emission standards.

I trust this additional information meets your requirements.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Buffier', written over a white background.

15 NOV 2013

**BARRY BUFFIER**  
Chair and CEO  
Environment Protection Authority

PO Box A290 Sydney South NSW 1232  
59-61 Goulburn St Sydney NSW 2000  
Tel: (02) 9995 5000 Fax: (02) 9995 5999  
TTY (02) 9211 4723  
ABN 43 692 285 758  
[www.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au)