Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

TRANSPORT / DOMESTIC AVIATION AND REFORM / AIRPORT ENVIRONMENT

Proposed content for a Ministerial Instrument under the Airports (Environment Protection) Regulations

Updating and moving Schedules 1 – 4 to a Ministerial Instrument .

April 2026

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Introduction

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (the department) is updating stakeholders on proposed changes to how air, water and soil pollution and offensive noise are regulated under the Airports (Environment Protection) Regulations 2026 (the Regulations).

Between November 2022 and November 2024, the department formally consulted Airport Lessee Companies (ALCs) and other key stakeholders about proposed changes to the Regulations as part of the sunsetting review of regulations made under the *Airports Act 1996* (Airports Act). This included distributing a comprehensive consultation paper entitled *Updating the schedules to the Airports (Environment Protection) Regulations 1997* (1997 Regulations) dated November 2023, seeking stakeholders' feedback on:

- Key updates to specific content in Schedules 1 to 4 of the Regulations (the Schedules) to better align with national standards (pages 8 to 45).
- Replacing the Schedules to the Regulations with a self-contained Ministerial Instrument that can be updated regularly by the Minister to reflect changing national standards (page 9).

You are encouraged to read the consultation paper (*Updating the schedules to the Airports (Environment Protection) Regulations 1997)* alongside this document.

Having considered stakeholders' feedback, factoring in updates made to some national standards since release of the previous consultation paper and following further analysis, the department further refined the proposed updates to the Schedules. However, the need to remake the 1997 Regulations prior to their sunsetting on 1 April 2026, and to allow for further consultation on the content of Schedules, the Regulations were remade with only minor amendments to the Schedules but also allowed for a mechanism to update the Schedules through creating a Ministerial Instrument.

Following the remaking of the Regulations, the department is now progressing updates to the Schedules, prior to their repeal from the Regulations and replacement by a Ministerial Instrument. We expect the proposed Ministerial Instrument to essentially maintain the structure of Schedules 1-4 of the Regulations.

This document cross-references relevant clauses in the Airports (Environment Protection) Regulations 2026 and the Airports (Environment Protection) Regulations 1997. **References are presented with the 2026 Regulations cited first, followed by the equivalent provision in the 1997 Regulations in square brackets** (for example, Part 1 of the Regulations [Part 1 of the 1997 Regulations]).

Proposed changes to Schedules

In summary, the proposed changes include updating the lists of substances and investigation levels (previously 'accepted limits') in the tables of the Schedules to be consistent with the most relevant standards and guidelines for air, water and soil pollution and excessive noise. One of our stated goals in remaking the Regulations has been to adopt, or align the levels set out in the Regulations with Australian standards where possible, and this is reflected in our choice of regulatory standards and guidelines that are referenced in the below.

This approach attempts to balance the need for the Regulations to better reflect contemporary environmental science (by revising the investigation levels for certain substances) with the aim of minimising impacts on airport operations (by maintaining the existing regulatory framework as much as possible).

The proposed updates provided in this document take all previous consultation into consideration. They also take into account recent significant changes that have been made to some national standards, for example, the release of the Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZG, 2018),

the revised Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG, 2025) and the PFAS National Environmental Management Plan (NEMP v 3.0, 2025).

Keeping the Schedules up-to-date

To avoid the risk of the Regulations falling behind national approaches and Australia's international treaty obligations, the department intends to remove the Schedules from the Regulations and to replace them with a Ministerial Instrument. The Ministerial Instrument will operate in the same way as the Schedules to the Regulations but will be easier to update, requiring approval by the Minister, not the Governor-General in Executive Council. This will allow the Minister to rapidly update the Schedules to better respond to any new or emerging contaminants in the future.

Creation of the initial Ministerial Instrument and its content (and any future changes) are subject to consultation requirements set out in Section 14 of the Regulations.

Ministerial Instruments are legislative instruments available on the Federal Register of Legislation. An example of a ministerial determination is the Health Insurance (Extended Medicare Safety Net) Determination 2017 (www.legislation.gov.au/F2017L01082).

Purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is to seek stakeholder feedback on the proposed content of the Ministerial Instrument that would replace the Schedules of the Regulations.

Responding to this document

You are invited to make a submission to the department in response to the proposals outlined in this paper. The preferred method for receiving submissions is via email to AEO@infrastructure.gov.au.

Submissions may also be made in hard copy to:

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts
Attention: Director, Environmental Regulatory Support
Airport Environment Branch
Domestic Aviation and Reform Division
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Submissions will not be made publicly available. Any personal information provided to the department will be stored and used in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988.*

Questions?

If you have any questions about the process for responding to this paper, please contact the department via email to AEO@infrastructure.gov.au.

Purpose of the Schedules

The Schedules to the Regulations serve 5 purposes:

1. identifying substances which are considered pollutants, to help determine when pollution has or may have occurred,
2. providing guidance on how to identify whether pollution may have occurred (e.g. indicators of adverse effects from air, soil and water pollution),
3. providing guidance on how to identify whether excessive noise has occurred,
4. setting investigation levels for certain substances to help determine non-compliance with different aspects of the Regulations (e.g. the general duties or a local authorisation), and
5. identifying appropriate methods or standards for analysis or monitoring (e.g. standards for testing air pollution).

Risk-based approach and investigation levels

The Regulations establish a risk-based framework for environmental management at leased federal airports. This framework is consistent with National Environment Protection Measures, including the National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure (ASC NEPM). Moving the Schedules to a Ministerial Instrument will not change this approach.

The Regulations use *investigation levels* and *guideline values* set out in the Schedules to guide when and how environmental assessment should occur. This ensures assessments or investigations are proportionate, staged, aligned with the department's risk-based approach, and consistent with the tiered framework under the ASC NEPM. These benchmarks help identify when further investigation or remediation may be needed, so that regulatory effort is focused on situations where there is a likely risk of harm to human health, the environment, or relevant beneficial uses (including existing or future uses of environmental resources such as water or soil).

> The identification of substances above relevant investigation levels and guideline values in the Schedules should act as a trigger to:
> - undertake further investigations, and/or
> - prompt consideration of management action to meet environmental values and mitigate, where reasonable and practicable, human health and/or ecological risks.

Investigation levels are used as screening tools to identify whether further assessment is warranted, not as determinative thresholds of non-compliance. Decisions about the scope of investigation, the need for further assessment, and any remediation requirements are informed by an evaluation of exposure pathways, receptor sensitivity, site-specific conditions, and the likelihood and consequence of adverse impacts. This approach ensures regulatory responses are scientifically informed, proportionate to risk, and aligned with contemporary national environmental assessment frameworks, while avoiding unnecessary or duplicative regulation.

> The purpose of an investigation level or guideline value is NOT intended to be:
> - a clean-up criteria, or
> - an authorisation to pollute up to those values.

Pollution and Contamination

For the purposes of the Regulations and the proposed Ministerial Instrument, the distinction between pollution and contamination should be noted as described in Part 2 Section 81 of the Regulations Explanatory Statement (2026). Pollution occurs when, for example land, is contaminated by a substance that causes or is reasonably likely to cause an adverse impact (for example, as described for soil pollution in section 17 of the Regulations [regulation 2.03 of the 1997 Regulations]). These Regulations focus on pollution and environmental harm, while treating contamination above certain levels as a trigger for investigation and assessment.

Schedule 1—Air pollution

Schedule 1 of the Regulations lists substances which are considered pollutants for the purpose of determining if air pollution has occurred under section 15 of the Regulations [regulation 2.01 of the 1997 Regulations]. For the purposes of the Regulations, air pollution has occurred when a substance mentioned in column 2 of table 1 in the Schedule is present in a quantity, way, condition or circumstance in which harm is likely to be caused to the environment, or unreasonable inconvenience is likely to be caused to a person.

Table 1 in Schedule 1 also sets out the investigation levels for contamination of air that indicate an operator of an undertaking is complying with the general duty to avoid polluting under section 21 of the Regulations [regulation 4.02 of the 1997 Regulations]. If the level of a substance is below the investigation level listed in the table it can be assumed the operator of an undertaking is complying with section 20(1) of the Regulations [regulation 4.01(1) of the 1997 Regulations].

Table 2 in Schedule 1 defines the allowable average concentration levels of polluting substances in the air at an airport. It sets out the ambient air quality objectives that will be considered by an Airport Environment Officer (AEO) when determining whether air pollution has occurred. Most of the ambient objective values are sourced from the *National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure* (AAQ NEMP) and state guidelines.

Proposed updates Schedule 1 - Air pollution

Part 1 – Air pollutants emitted from a stationary source

The table below outlines proposed changes to Part 1 of Schedule 1.

Reference (Schedule 1)	Change	Reason
1.01 (1)	Replace ‘Definitions’ heading with ‘Interpretation’ heading	To be consistent with Schedule 2 & 3
	Removing reference to *Bacharach*, *Ringelmann*, *MOC* and *ROC*. Other existing definitions remain unchanged.	No longer referenced in new Table 1
	Adding new definition as follows: ***Volatile organic compound*** *(VOC)* means a chemical compound based on carbon chains or rings, that contains hydrogen and has a vapour pressure greater than 2mm of	Requested during previous consultation. Definition of VOCs from the NSW Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2022.

Reference (Schedule 1)	Change	Reason
	mercury (0.27 kPa) at 25°C and 101.3 kPa: (a) including compounds containing oxygen, nitrogen or other elements, but (b) excluding methane, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, carbonic acid, metallic carbides and carbonate salts.	
1.01 (2) and 1.01 (3)	Unchanged	
1.01 (4)	Update text as marked in blue: In Table 1, the expression, in column 3 of an item in Table 1, of a volume of gas or vapour assumes the gas or vapour to be measured dry, at a temperature of 0C (273K), and at an absolute pressure equivalent to one atmosphere (101.325 kPa).	To provide more clarity
1.01 (5)	Unchanged	

Part 1 – 1.02 Table 1 – Investigation levels for contamination of air

The table below outlines proposed changes to Table 1 under clause 1.02 of Schedule 1. Changes to text and updated values are highlighted in blue text.

Key changes include:

- Removal of 'Soot'
- Inclusion of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) as a new entry to replace vapours of a volatile organic liquid (line 7 and 8)
    - Updates to reference level, methods of measurement, analysis or monitoring
    - including to move from reliance on the British Standard to the US EPA method and procedure for analysing dark smoke; recognise the Australian Standards for solid particles (heating metals) and to update the reference levels for crushing and grinding of solid particles; and move from reliance on the Australian Standard to the US EPA methods for all other air pollutants – with the exceptions of nickel and its compounds and gaseous emissions.

Substance	Type of Source	Investigation level for substance	Reference level, or method of measurement, analysis or monitoring
~~**Dark**~~ **Smoke**	Any stationary activity involving the burning of fuel	20% opacity	US EPA Performance Specification 1 and Procedure 3 US EPA Method 22
Solid particles~~**, not otherwise specified**~~ **(total)**	An activity or plant used for heating metals	50 mg/m^3	Australian Standards AS 4323.2 or US EPA Method 5, 17 or 201A

Substance	Type of Source	Investigation level for substance	Reference level, or method of measurement, analysis or monitoring
	A crushing, grinding, separating or materials handling activity	20 mg/m^3	12% CO2 reference level, dry, 273K, 101.3kPa – boiler or incinerator 7% CO2 reference level, dry, 273K, 101.3kPa – fuel burning equipment using solid, liquid or gaseous fuel
Soot	Removed	n/a	n/a
Sulphuric acid mist and sulphur trioxide	Any source ~~(except a sulphuric acid plant or fuel-burning equipment)~~	100 mg/m^3 expressed as SO3	US EPA Method 8 Reference conditions: dry, 273 K, 101.3 kPa
Acids and acid gases not elsewhere specified	Any process (including aircraft maintenance) except manufacture of glazed terracotta roof tiles	0.4 g/m^3 expressed as HCl	Australian Standard AS 3580.3
Oxides of nitrogen	(a) an activity or plant, except boilers, gas turbines and stationary reciprocating internal combustion engines listed below	350 mg/m^3	US EPA Method 7, 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E or 320 ISO Method 10396. Monitoring method: US EPA Performance Specification 2 and Procedure 1. Reference conditions: dry, 273 K, 101.3 kPa
	(b) a boiler operating on gas	350 mg/m^3	
	(c) a boiler operating on a fuel other than gas, including a boiler used in connection with an electricity generator that forms part of an electricity generating system with a capacity of <30 MW	500 mg/m^3	
	(d) a turbine operating on gas, being a turbine used in connection with an electricity generating system with a capacity of 10 MW or greater but less than 30 MW	70 mg/m^3	
	(e) a turbine operating on a fuel other than gas, being a turbine used in connection with an electricity generating system with a capacity of	90 mg/m^3	

Substance	Type of Source	Investigation level for substance	Reference level, or method of measurement, analysis or monitoring
	10 MW or greater but less than 30 MW		
	(f) stationary reciprocating internal combustion engines	450 mg/m^3	
Volatile organic compounds (VOCs), as n-propane equivalent	Any source	40 mg/m^3 VOCs 125 mg/m^3 carbon monoxide (CO)	US EPA Method 18 US EPA Performance Specification 8, 9 and 15 and Procedure 1
Fluorine compounds	Any source	50 mg/m^3 (expressed as hydrofluoric acid)	US EPA 13A or 13B, or ISO15713 Reference conditions: dry, 273 K, 101.3 kPa.
Chlorine and chlorine compounds (except hydrochloric acid)	Any source	0.2 g/m^3 (expressed as chlorine)	US EPA Method 26, 26A or 321.
Carbon monoxide	Any source (except a stationary industrial diesel vehicle or standby generator)	1.0 g/m^3	US EPA Method 10 Monitoring method: US EPA Performance Specification 4 and Procedure 1 Reference conditions: dry, 273 K, 101.3 kPa.
Hydrogen sulphide	Any source	5.0 mg/m^3	US EPA Method 11, 15 or 16 Monitoring method: US EPA Performance Specification 7 and Procedure 1 Reference conditions: dry, 273 K, 101.3 kPa.
Antimony, arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury or vanadium, or a compound of any of those substances	Any source	10.0 mg/m^3 in aggregate, in any combination (expressed in each case as the relevant metal)	US EPA Method 29, 30B or 102 Reference conditions: dry, 273 K, 101.3 kPa.

Substance	Type of Source	Investigation level for substance	Reference level, or method of measurement, analysis or monitoring
Cadmium and its compounds	Any source	0.2 mg/m^3 (expressed as cadmium)	US EPA Method 29, 30B or 102 Reference conditions: dry, 273 K, 101.3 kPa.
Nickel and its compounds (except nickel carbonyl)	Any source	1.0 mg/m^3 (expressed as nickel)	ICP standard method
Nickel carbonyl	Any source	0.5 mg/m^3 (expressed as nickel)	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) method 6007
gaseous emissions (excluding the effect of water vapour in the emission)	Any undertaking	Opacity greater than 20%	Australian Standard AS 4323.1-1995

Part 2 – Ambient air quality objectives

The table below outlines proposed changes to Part 2 of Schedule 1 which would result in insertion of a new clause

Reference (Schedule 1)	Change	Reason
New clause	Insert new clause before current clause 2.01: **Interpretation** **Lead sampling** must be carried out for a period of 24 hours at least every sixth day. **Measurement of lead** must be carried out on Total Suspended Particles (TSP) or its equivalent. **The averaging periods** are defined as follows: (a) 1 hour - clock hour average (b) 8 hour - rolling 8-hour average based on 1-hour averages (c) 1 day - calendar day average (d) 1 year - calendar year average **All averaging periods** of 8 hours or less must be referenced by the end time of the averaging period. This determines the calendar day to which the averaging periods are assigned. For the purposes of **calculating and reporting 8-hour averages**, the first rolling average in a calendar day ends at 1:00 am, and includes hours from the previous calendar day. **The maximum concentration standards** are the arithmetic mean concentrations	To support interpretation of Table 2
2.01	Text from 2.01 updated to: The ambient objective for a substance mentioned in column 1 of an item in Table 2 is that concentrations of the substance in air at an airport, measured over the period of time mentioned in column 2 of the item, do not exceed the maximum ~~averaged~~ **standard** mentioned in column 3 of the item.	To support interpretation of Table 2

Part 2 - Table 2 – Ambient air quality objectives

The table below outlines proposed changes to Table 2 under clause 2.01 of Schedule 1. Changes to text and updated values are highlighted in blue text.

Key changes include:

- Unless otherwise stated, ambient objectives are derived from the maximum concentration standards as per the *National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure* (AAQ NEMP).
- Removal of Total suspended particulate (TSP) and Sulphates
- Addition of particulates.

Substance	Averaging Period	Ambient objective (maximum concentration standard) µg/m³	(ppm)
Lead	1 year	0.5	-
Photochemical oxidants (as ozone)	8 hours	-	0.065
Sulphur dioxide	1 hour	-	0.075
	1 day	-	0.02
Nitrogen dioxide	1 hour	-	0.08
	1 year	-	0.015
Carbon monoxide	8 hours	-	9
Particles as PM10	1 day	50	-
	1 year	25	-
Particles as PM2.5	1 day	20	-
	1 year	7	-

Schedule 2—Water pollution

For the purpose of the Regulations, water means marine, estuarine or fresh water, and includes a body of water, a natural watercourse, a swamp or wetland, groundwater, and water in a channel, drain or pipe.

Schedule 2 of the Regulations specifies indicators of adverse chemical effect for the purpose of determining whether water pollution has occurred under section 16 of the Regulations [regulation 2.02 of the 1997 Regulations]. For the Regulations, water pollution has occurred when waters contain a substance or organism that:

- causes, or is reasonably likely to cause, the physical, chemical or biological condition of the waters to be adversely affected, or
- that causes, or is reasonably likely to cause, an adverse effect on beneficial use of the waters.

Clause 1.02 of Schedule 2 sets out when the chemical condition of water will be adversely affected by specifying parameters for certain substances in water.

The table under clause 1.03 of Schedule 2 sets out the investigation levels for contamination of fresh or marine water by certain substances which indicate an operator of an undertaking is complying with the general duty to avoid polluting under section 21 of the Regulations [regulation 4.02 of the 1997 Regulations]. If the level of a substance is below the investigation level listed in the table, it can be assumed the operator of an undertaking is complying with subsection 20(1) of the Regulations [regulation 4.01(1) of the 1997 Regulations].

The table below outlines proposed changes to Schedule 2. The proposed definitions have been sourced from the *Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality* (ANZG) 2018.

Note: ANZG 2018 still references tables (including for some default guidelines values) from the earlier *Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality, 2000* (ANZECC & ARMCANZ, 2000). Where investigation levels in the Schedules are based on this material, this document references the relevant parts of ANZECC & ARMCANZ (2000) directly.

The following changes to indicators of adverse chemical effect for dissolved oxygen, pH, salinity and turbidity align the Schedules with the relevant investigation levels in the ANZECC & ARMCANZ 2000. The updated investigation levels include different ecosystem types and regions instead of the blanket limits that are currently applied. These will better support site specific investigation levels, given the broad geographic spread of airports in Australia.

Proposed updates Schedule 2 – Water Pollution

Reference (Schedule 2)	Change	Reason
1.01	Retain existing definitions and include the following new terms: **default guideline value (DGV)** means a guideline value recommended for generic application in the absence of a more specific guideline value (e.g. a site-specific guideline value) in the *Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality*. **south-east Australia** means Victoria, New South Wales, south-east Queensland, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania. **south central Australia** means South Australia.	To provide additional context to the proposed new tables in Schedule 2

Reference (Schedule 2)	Change	Reason
	south-west Australia means southern Western Australia. **tropical Australia** means northern Queensland, the Northern Territory and north-west Western Australia.	
1.02 (1)	Unchanged	
1.02 (2)	Replace with new text and table (Dissolved Oxygen) below	To better align with section 3.3.2 of the ANZECC & ARMCANZ (2000) The '*slightly to moderately disturbed ecosystem'* protection level has been selected due to the high variability in potential risk to receiving water bodies across airports.
1.02 (3)	Replace with new text and table (pH) below	
1.02 (4)	Replace with new text and table (Salinity) below	
1.02 (5)(a)(b)	Replace with new text and table (Turbidity) below	
1.02 (6)	Unchanged (Faecal coliforms)	
1.02 (7)	Unchanged (Temperature)	
1.03	Replace current Table 1 with updated table of contaminants and investigation levels (below)	To better align with the ANZG (2018)
Proposed new table	Insert new table of PFAS investigation levels	To include PFAS chemicals not currently included in the Schedules and align with PFAS NEMP

New table - Dissolved Oxygen

The table below is a proposed new table for inclusion under clause 1.02 of Schedule 2. The table and text below will replace clause 1.02(2).

There will be an adverse effect if, because of the entry of a substance into waters, the dissolved-oxygen (DO) content of the relevant waters falls below the following lower limits or rises above the following upper limits:

DO% saturation	South-east Australia		Tropical Australia		South-west Australia		South central Australia	
Ecosystem type	Lower limit	Upper limit	Lower limit	Upper limit	Lower limit	Upper limit	Lower limit	Upper limit
Upland river**	90	110	90	120	90	nil	nil	nil
Lowland river**	85	110	85	120	80	120	90	nil
Lakes & reservoirs	90	110	90	120	90	nil	90	nil
Wetlands	nil	nil	90 <80*	120 >110*	90	120	nil	nil
Estuaries	80	110	80	120	90	110	90	nil
Marine	90	110	90	nil	90	nil	nil	nil

*Northern Territory only.

**Upland streams are defined as those at >150 m altitude and lowland <150m, as per ANZECC & ARMCANZ (2000) guidelines.

New table - pH

The table below is a proposed new table for inclusion under clause 1.02 of Schedule 2. The table and text below will replace clause 1.02(3).

There will be an adverse effect if, because of the entry of a substance into waters, the pH of the water falls below the following lower limits or rises above the following upper limits:

pH	South-east Australia		Tropical Australia		South-west Australia		South central Australia	
Ecosystem type	Lower limit	Upper limit	Lower limit	Upper limit	Lower limit	Upper limit	Lower limit	Upper limit
Upland river	6.5	7.5	6.0	7.5	6.5	8.0	nil	nil
Lowland river	6.5	8.0	6.0	8.0	6.5	8.0	6.5	9.0
Lakes & reservoirs	6.5	8.0	6.0	8.0	6.5	8.0	6.5	9.0
Wetlands	nil	nil	6.0	8.0	7.0	8.5	nil	nil
Estuaries	7.0	8.5	7.0	8.5	7.5	8.5	6.5	9.0
Marine	8.0	8.4	8.0	8.4	8.0	8.4	8.0	8.5

New table - Salinity

The table below is a proposed new table for inclusion under clause 1.02 of Schedule 2. The table and text below will replace clause 1.02(4).

There will be an adverse effect if, because of the entry of a substance into waters, the salinity of the water falls below the following lower limits or rises above the following upper limits:

Salinity (µS/cm)	South-east Australia		Tropical Australia		South-west Australia		South central Australia	
Ecosystem type	Lower limit	Upper limit	Lower limit	Upper limit	Lower limit	Upper limit	Lower limit	Upper limit
Upland river	30	350	20	250	120	300	nil	nil
Lowland river	125	2200	20	250	120	300	100	5000
Lakes & reservoirs	20	30	90	900	300	1500	300	1000

New table - Turbidity

The table below is a proposed new table for inclusion under clause 1.02 of Schedule 2. The table and text below will replace clause 1.02(5).

There will be an adverse effect if, because of the entry of a substance into waters, the turbidity of the water (measured in nephelometric turbidity units (NTU)) falls below the following lower limits or rises above the following upper limits:

NTU	South-east Australia		Tropical Australia		South-west Australia		South central Australia	
Ecosystem type	Lower limit	Upper limit	Lower limit	Upper limit	Lower limit	Upper limit	Lower limit	Upper limit
Upland river	2	25	2	15	10	20	1	50
Lowland river	6	50	2	15	10	20	1	50
Lakes & reservoirs	1	20	2	200	10	100	1	100
Estuarine & marine	0.5	10	1	20	1	2	0.5	10

Table (clause 1.03) – Investigation levels for contamination

The table below is proposed to replace the table under clause 1.03 of Schedule 2. Changes to text and updated values are highlighted in blue text.

Unless otherwise stated, values for investigation levels are derived from the 95% level of species protection for 'slightly to moderately disturbed ecosystems' as per ANZG 2018 DGVs.

The 'level of protection' can be defined as the degree of protection afforded to a water body based on its ecosystem condition (current or desired health status of an ecosystem relative to the degree of human disturbance). ANZG 2018 recognises high conservation or ecological value systems, slightly to moderately disturbed systems and highly disturbed systems as the 3 categories of current or desired ecosystem condition.

The 'slightly to moderately disturbed ecosystem' protection level has been selected due to the high variability in potential risks to receiving water bodies across airports, nonetheless the species protection level is to be assessed in accordance to site specific conditions as per ANZG 2018.

Substance	Investigation level for fresh water (µg/L)	Investigation level for marine water (µg/L)
Inorganic toxicants:		
Aluminium (pH>6.5)	55	-
Aluminium (pH<6.5)	0.8	-
Ammonia	900	910
Antimony (III)	9.0**	270**
Arsenic (III)	24	2.3**
Arsenic (V)	13	4.5**
Boron	940	-
Beryllium	0.13	-
Cadmium[#]	0.2	0.7*
Chromium (III)[#]	3.3	10
Chromium (VI)	1	4.4
Copper	1.4	1.3
Cyanide	7	4
Iron	300**	-
Hydrogen Sulfide	1	1**
Lead[#]	3.4	4.4
Manganese	1900	80
Mercury (inorganic)	0.06*	0.1*
Nickel[#]	11	7
Selenium (Total)	5*	3**

Substance	Investigation level for fresh water (µg/L)	Investigation level for marine water (µg/L)
Selenium (IV)	11**	3**
Silver	0.05	1.4
Thallium	0.03**	17**
Tin (tributyltin)	0.002**	0.006
Zinc#	8	8
Organic toxicants:		
Alkyl ethoxylated sulfate (AES)	650	650**
Alcohol ethoxylated surfactants	140	140**
Linear alkylbenzene sulfonates	280	0.1**
BP 1100 X	25**	25**
Corexit 7664	16**	1**
Corexit 8667	1200**	1200**
Corexit 9527	1100**	1100**
Corexit 9550	140**	140**
Total petroleum hydrocarbon / Total recoverable hydrocarbon:		
Fuel (C6–C9 fractions)* **	150	150
Mineral oil (>C9 fractions)* **	600	600
Halogenated aliphatic compounds:		
Hexachlorobutadiene	0.04**	0.03**
1,1,2-trichloroethylene	330	330
Monocyclic aromatic compounds:		
Benzene	950	500
Ethylbenzene	80	80
Phenol	320	400
Toluene	180	180
Chlorinated benzenes:		
Monochlorobenzene	55	55
1,2 dichlorobenzene	160	-
1,3 dichlorobenzene	260	-
1,4 dichlorobenzene	60	-

Substance	Investigation level for fresh water (µg/L)	Investigation level for marine water (µg/L)
1,2,3 trichlorobenzene	3*	-
1,2,4 trichlorobenzene	85	20
1,3,5 trichlorobenzene	8*	8*
1,2,3,4 tetra-chlorobenzene	2*	2*
1,2,3,5 tetra-chlorobenzene	3*	3*
1,2,4,5 tetra-chlorobenzene	5*	5*
Pentachlorobenzene	1.5*	1.5*
Hexachlorobenzene	0.05*	0.05*
Chlorinated phenols:		
2-Chlorophenol	340	-
4-Chlorophenol	220	-
2,4 dichlorophenol	120	-
2,4,6 trichlorophenol	3*	-
Tetrachlorophenol	1***	-
2,3,4,6 tetra-chlorophenol	10	10**
Pentachlorophenol	3.6*	11*
Nutrients (in river or stream waters)**:		
Total Phosphorus	20 upland 50 lowland	-
Total Nitrogen	250 upland 500 lowland	-
Nutrients (in lake or reservoir waters):		
Total Phosphorus	10	-
Total Nitrogen	350	-
Chlorophyll-a	5	-
Nutrients (in estuarine or embayment waters):		
Phosphates, expressed as P	-	5***
Nitrates, expressed as N	-	10***
Ammonium, expressed as N	-	15
Chlorophyll-a	-	4
Nutrients (in coastal waters):		

Substance	Investigation level for fresh water (µg/L)	Investigation level for marine water (µg/L)
Phosphates, expressed as P	-	1***
Nitrates, expressed as N	-	10***
Ammonium, expressed as N	-	15
Chlorophyll-a	-	1
Pesticides:		
Organochlorines		
Aldrin	0.001**	0.003**
Chlordane	0.03*	0.001**
DDE	0.03**	0.0005**
DDT	0.006	0.0004**
Dieldrin	0.01**	0.01**
Endosulfan	0.03*	0.005*
Endrin	0.01*	0.004*
Heptachlor	0.01	0.0004
Lindane	0.2	0.007**
Methoxychlor	0.005**	0.004**
Mirex	0.04**	0.04**
Toxaphene	0.1*	0.0006**
Organophosphate		
Azinphos-methyl	0.01*	0.01**
Chlorpyrifos	0.01	0.009
Demeton	0.04**	0.3**
Malathion	0.05	0.05**
Parathion	0.004	0.004**
Diazinon	0.01	0.01**
Dimethoate	0.15	0.15**
Fenitrothion	0.2	0.001**
Profenofos	0.02**	0.002**
Temephos	0.05**	0.05
Herbicides:		
Acrolein	0.01**	0.1**

Substance	Investigation level for fresh water (µg/L)	Investigation level for marine water (µg/L)
Glyphosate	320	370**
Diquat	1.4	1.4**
Paraquat	1.2	-
2,4-D	280	-
Metsulfuron-methyl	0.018	-
Phthalate esters:		
dibutylphthalate	25**	25**
di(2-ethylhexy) phthalate	1**	-
diethylphthalate	1000	900**
dimethylphthalate	3700	-
Polyaromatic hydro-carbons:		
Aroclor 1242	0.3*	-
Aroclor 1254	0.01*	-
Benzo(a)pyrene	0.1	0.1
Napthalene	16	50*
Anthracene	0.01*	0.01*
Phenanthrene	0.6*	0.6*
Fluoranthene	1*	1*

* To account for the bioaccumulating nature of this toxicant, the 99% species protection level DGV is used for slightly to moderately disturbed systems.
**Low or unknown reliability trigger limit under the ANZG 2018.
***Derived from the Airports (Environment Protection) Regulations 1997.
**** Where individual territories have developed their own nutrient regional guideline trigger values, those values should be used in preference to the default values.
# Increases in water hardness reduce the toxicity of some metals, if the water being examined has a hardness greater than 30 mg CaCO3/L, then it is appropriate to modify the DGV for that hardness.

New table – Investigation levels PFAS contamination

The table below is a proposed new table for inclusion under Schedule 2.

Investigation levels for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination are based on National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Australia Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG, 2025), the PFAS National Environmental Management Plan (PFAS NEMP, 2025) and the toxicant default guideline values for aquatic ecosystem protection Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) in freshwater (ANZG, 2026).

Note: The purpose of a guideline value is to identify the level of a contaminant that will minimise human health and/or ecological risk, based on best available scientific evidence. The purpose of these guideline values is not intended to be a clean-up criterion or an authorisation to pollute up to these levels.

Substance	Guideline value for drinking water (µg /L)[1]	Guideline value for recreational water (µg/L)[2]	Guideline value for fresh water (µg/L)[2,3]	Guideline value for marine water (µg/L) [2,3]
Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)				
Sum of PFOS and PFHxS	-	2	-	-
PFOS	0.008	-	0.9[4]	0.13[5]
PFOA	0.2	10	220	220
PFHxS	0.03	-	-	-
PFBS	1	-	-	-

[1] Guideline values are sourced from the NHMRC Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, as amended from time to time.
[2] Guideline values are sourced from PFAS NEMP V.3.0 (unless stated otherwise), as amended from time to time.
[3] Ecological guideline values are used to assess and investigate potential risks to aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.
[4] ANZG 2026 value. The 95% species protection level for PFOS does not account for the bioaccumulating nature PFAS. The 99% species protection guideline value is recommended for application to slightly-to moderately-disturbed freshwater ecosystems. The 99% guideline value alone may not be sufficient to protect organisms that consume these biota (e.g. predators such as birds). To address the risk to higher consumers, a biota screening threshold for PFOS in freshwater of 0.0005 µg/L applies. Exceedance of the biota screening threshold of 0.0005 µg/L should trigger an assessment of possible(s) risk to mammalian and avian predators.
[5] The 95% species protection level for PFOS does not account for the bioaccumulating nature PFAS. The 99% species protection level for PFOS should be used in assessing toxicity and bioaccumulation in high conservation value ecosystems and assessing bioaccumulation in slightly to moderately disturbed ecosystems.
However, the guideline value for the 99% species protection level for PFOS in marine waters is close to the commercially available ultra-trace level of detection. Consequently, the analytical results, obtained to screen against the 95% species protection level using commercially available standard limits of reporting (LOR), can be used to trigger any further investigation of potential risk to marine aquatic ecosystems:

- in high value ecosystems and slightly to moderately disturbed ecosystems, and
- using the guideline value for 99% species protection level, and
- assuming analytical results that are <LOR will exceed the guideline value for the 99% species protection level for PFOS in marine waters.

The guideline value for 99% species protection level for PFOS in marine waters is 0.00023 µg/L (sourced from the PFAS NEMP, as amended from time to time).

Schedule 3—Soil pollution

For the purposes of the Regulations, under section 17 of the Regulations [regulation 2.03 of the 1997 Regulations] soil pollution has occurred when land, including subterranean groundwater, is contaminated by a substance that causes, or is reasonably likely to cause, an adverse effect on its condition or use.

Under sections 64 and 65 of the Regulations [regulation 6.07 of the 1997 Regulations], if an AEO has reason to suspect that the soil in an area is:

- contaminated by a substance mentioned in table 1 of Schedule 3, and
- causing an adverse effect, or is migrating to another place and causing an adverse effect,

the AEO, in accordance with the process set out under Division 3 subdivisions A and B of the Regulations [Division 2 of Part 6 of the 1997 Regulations], may require further investigation to be undertaken. This investigation and the assessor's report (if required) will determine whether soil pollution has occurred, consistent with the definition under regulation section 17 of the Regulations [regulation 2.03 of the 1997 Regulations].

The tables in Schedule 3 of the Regulations set out investigation levels for contamination of soil by certain pollutants, which can help determine if an operator of an undertaking is complying with the general duty to avoid polluting under section 21 of the Regulations [regulation 4.02 of the 1997 Regulations]. If the level of a substance is below the investigation level listed in the table, it can be assumed the operator of an undertaking is complying with subsection 20(1) of the Regulations [regulation 4.01 of the 1997 Regulations]

Proposed updates Schedule 3 – Soil Pollution

Reference (Schedule 3)	Change	Reason
1.01 Table 1	Updated section with Health Investigation Levels (HILs) for different land use scenarios and reference to health screening levels (HSLs)	To better align with the National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999, (ASC NEPM) as amended in 2013
Proposed new table	Insert new table of Investigation levels hydrocarbon (Ecological Screening Levels (ESLs)) – areas of an airport generally	To better align with the National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999, (ASC NEPM) as amended in 2013
Proposed new table	Insert new table of PFAS investigation levels	To include PFAS chemicals not currently included in the Schedules and align with PFAS NEMP
1.02 Table 2	Updated investigation levels for - areas of environmental significance	To better align with the National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination)

Reference (Schedule 3)	Change	Reason
		Measure 1999, (ASC NEPM) as amended in 2013
Proposed new table	Insert new table of investigation levels hydrocarbons - areas of environmental significance	To better align with the National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999, (ASC NEPM) as amended in 2013

Clause 1.01 – areas of an airport generally

The table below is proposed to replace Table 1 under clause 1.01 of Schedule 3. Changes to text and updated values are highlighted in blue text.

Health investigations levels (HILs) for a range of metals and organic substances and health screening levels (HSLs) for asbestos and hydrocarbons are applicable for assessing human health risk via relevant pathways of exposure. Unless otherwise stated, values for investigation limits are derived from the HILs (HIL A, HIL C and HIL D) as per the *National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure* (ASC NEPM).

Table 1 – Investigation levels for soil – areas of an airport generally

	Investigation level (mg/kg) Residential (HIL A)	**Investigation level (mg/kg)** Recreational (HIL C)	**Investigation level (mg/kg)** Commercial/ Industrial (HIL D)
Metals and inorganics			
Arsenic (total)	100	300	3000
Beryllium	60	90	500
Boron	4,500	20,000	300,000
Cadmium	20	90	900
Chromium (III)*	600,000	600,000	600,000
Chromium (VI)	100	300	3600
Cobalt	100	300	4,000
Copper	6,000	17,000	240,000
Lead	300	600	1,500
Manganese	3,800	19,000	60,000
Mercury (inorganic)	40	80	730
Methyl mercury	10	13	180
Nickel	400	1,200	6,000
Selenium	200	700	10,000
Zinc	7,400	30,000	400,000
Cyanides (free)	250	240	1,500
Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)			
Carcinogenic PAHs (as BaP TEQ)**	3	3	40
Total PAHs	300	300	4,000

	Investigation level (mg/kg) Residential (HIL A)	**Investigation level (mg/kg)** Recreational (HIL C)	**Investigation level (mg/kg)** Commercial/ Industrial (HIL D)
Phenols			
Phenol	3,000	40,000	240,000
Pentachlorophenol	100	120	660
Cresols	400	4,000	25,000
Organochlorine Pesticides			
DDT, DDE + DDD	240	400	3,600
Aldrin and dieldrin	6	10	45
Chlordane	50	70	530
Endosulfan	270	340	2,000
Endrin	10	20	100
Heptachlor	6	10	50
Hexachlorobenzene	10	10	80
Methoxychlor	300	400	2,500
Mirex	10	20	100
Toxaphene	20	30	160
Herbicides			
2,4,5-T	600	800	5,000
2,4-D	900	1300	9000
MCPA	600	800	5000
MCPB	600	800	5,000
Mecoprop	600	800	5,000
Picloram	4,500	5,700	35,000
Other Pesticides			
Atrazine	320	400	2,500
Chlorpyrifos	160	250	2,000
Bifenthrin	600	730	4,500
Other Organics			
PCB (total)	1	1	7
PBDE Flame Retardants (Br1-Br9)	1	2	10
Volatile Organic Chlorinated Compounds (soil vapour) (mg/m^3)* **			
TCE	0.02	0.4	0.08
1,1,1-TCA	60	1,200	230
PCE	2	40	8
cis-1,2-dichloroethene	0.08	2	0.3
Vinyl chloride	0.03 (mg/m^3)	0.5 (mg/m^3)	0.1 (mg/m^3)
Health screening levels (HSLs) for asbestos			
Asbestos (all forms)	No visible asbestos for surface soil		
Bonded asbestos containing material (ACM)	0.01% (w/w)	0.02% (w/w)	0.05% (w/w)
Fibrous asbestos and asbestos fines (friable asbestos)	0.001% (w/w)	0.001% (w/w)	0.001% (w/w)

	Investigation level (mg/kg) Residential (HIL A)	**Investigation level (mg/kg)** Recreational (HIL C)	**Investigation level (mg/kg)** Commercial/ Industrial (HIL D)
Health screening levels (HSLs) Sand****	Low-high density residential (0m to<1m)	Recreational/open space (0 m to <1m)	Commercial/Industrial (0m to <1m)
Toluene	160	NL	NL
Ethylbenzene	55	NL	NL
Xylene	40	NL	230
Naphthalene	3	NL	NL
Benzene	0.5	NL	3
F1	45	NL	260
F2	110	NL	NL

*Derived from the Airports (Environment Protection) Regulations 1997
** Carcinogenic PAHs: HIL is based on the 8 carcinogenic PAHs and their TEFs (potency relative to B(a)P). The B(a)P TEQ is calculated by multiplying the concentration of each carcinogenic PAH in the sample by its B(a)P TEF as presented in ASC NEPM.
*** Investigation limits based on the interim soil vapour health investigation levels for volatile organic as per ASC NEPM.
**** Soil HSLs for vapour intrusion as per ASC NEPM. HSLs for groundwater and soil vapour are presented in ASC NEPM, additional assessment of HSLs is required for site specific land use, depth and soil type.

New table - Investigation levels hydrocarbons

The table below is a proposed new table for inclusion under clause 1.01 of Schedule 3.

Investigation levels are based on Ecological Screening Levels (ESLs) which are applicable for assessing risk to terrestrial ecosystems from petroleum hydrocarbons. ESLs broadly apply to coarse- and fine-grained soils and various land uses.

In addition to the ESLs, the ASC NEPM provides guidance for Ecological Investigation Levels (EILs) developed for selected metals and organic substances applicable for assessing risk to terrestrial ecosystems. EILs depend on specific soil physicochemical properties and land use scenarios and generally apply to the top 2 m of soil. Site specific EILs can also be derived with reference to specific soil physicochemical further detail is provided in ASC NEPM.

Substance	**Investigation level (mg/kg dry soil)** Urban residential & public open space		**Investigation level (mg/kg dry soil)** Commercial and industrial	
	Coarse	*Fine*	*Coarse*	*Fine*
F1 (C6-C10)	180	180	215	215
F2 (>C10-C16)	120	120	170	170
F3 (>CF16-C34)	300	1,300	1,700	2,500
F4 (>C34-C40)	2,800	5,600	3,300	6,600
Benzene	50	65	75	95
Ethylbenzene	70	125	165	185
Toluene	85	105	135	135
Xylene	105	45	180	95
Benzo(a)pyrene	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7

New table – Investigation levels PFAS contamination

The table below is a proposed new table for inclusion under clause 1.01 of Schedule 3.

Values for investigation levels are derived from the PFAS NEMP V3.0.

Substance	Investigation level for residential with garden/ accessible soil (mg/kg) (HIL-A)	Investigation level for public open space (mg/kg) (HIL-C)	Investigation level for industrial/ Commercial (mg/kg) (HIL-D)	Guideline level for ecological direct exposure – all land uses (mg/kg)	Guideline level for interim ecological indirect exposure – all land uses (mg/kg)
Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)					
Sum of PFOS and PFHxS	0.003	1	20	-	-
PFOS	-	-	-	1	0.003
PFOA	0.06	10	50	10*	0.003

*0.005mg/kg as an interim screening value if reptiles may be exposed.

Clause 1.02 – Areas of environmental significance

The table below is proposed to replace Table 2 under clause 1.02 of Schedule 3. Changes to text and updated values are highlighted in blue text. We note that a reference to environmental significance for the purposes of Part 4 and this Schedule is a reference to Environmentally Significant Areas as described in section 71(2)(h)(ii) or 71(3)(h)(ii) of the Airports Act. This imports the meaning of environmental significance as explained in the subsection 17(3) of the Airports Regulations 2024.

Table 2 – Investigation levels - areas of environmental significance

Substance	Trigger limit (mg/kg) Fresh	Trigger limit (mg/kg) Aged
Heavy Metals		
Antimony	20	20
Arsenic*	20	40
Barium	200	200
Cadmium	3	3
Chromium (III)*	25-50	60-130
Cobalt	170	170
Copper*	15-60	20-80
Lead*	110	470
Manganese	500	500
Mercury	1	1
Molybdenum	20	20
Nickel*	1-25	5-95
Tin	50	50
Zinc*	7-130	15-280
Mineral pollutants		

Boron	75	75
Phenolic compounds		
Phenols (total)	0.5	0.5
Pesticides		
Aldrin	0.05	0.05
Dieldrin	0.2	0.02
DDT**	3	-
Other chemicals		
Naphthalene**	10	-
Sulphate	2,000	2,000

*Values for trigger limits are derived from the ecological investigation levels for fresh and aged contamination in soil with various land uses as per the ASC NEPM Schedule B5a and 1997 Regulations. Presented ranges are the ecological investigation levels for a range of soil characteristics.
** Values for trigger limits are derived from the generic ecological investigation levels for fresh DDT and fresh naphthalene in soils irrespective of their physicochemical properties as per the ASC NEPM.
Note: In addition to Ecological Investigation Levels (EILs) for areas of environmental significance the ASC NEPM provides levels for urban, residential and public open space and commercial industrial scenarios. Site specific EILs can also be derived with reference to specific soil physicochemical further detail is provided in ASC NEPM.

New table – Investigation levels Hydrocarbon - areas of environmental significance

The table below is a proposed new table for inclusion under clause 1.02 of Schedule 3.

Values for investigation limits are derived from the ecological screening levels for TPH fractions F1-F4, BTEX and benzo(a)pyrene in soil as per the ASC NEPM for areas of ecological significance.

Substance	Investigation level (mg/kg dry soil) Coarse	Investigation level (mg/kg dry soil) Fine
F1 (C6-C10)	125	25
F2 (>C10-C16)	125	25
F3 (>CF16-C34)	-	-
F4 (>C34-C40)	-	-
Benzene	10	10
Toluene	10	65
Ethylbenzene	1.5	40
Xylene	10	1.6
Benzo(a)pyrene	0.7	0.7

Schedule 4—Excessive noise guidelines

Schedule 4 of the Regulations sets out guidelines for an AEO to follow when determining whether offensive noise is occurring under subsection 18(2) of the Regulations [regulation 2.04(2) of the 1997 Regulations]. The guidelines in Schedule 4 are one factor the AEO must consider, alongside other factors such as the time of day and duration, background noise levels and the location of sensitive receptors in relation to the source of the noise.

If an AEO does not consider noise generated from undertaking is offensive, having considered the guidelines in Schedule 4 and other factors set out under section 18 of the Regulations [regulation 2.04 of the 1997 Regulations], an operator of an undertaking is assumed to be complying with the general duty to prevent offensive noise occurring under section 25 of the Regulations [regulation 4.06 of the 1997 Regulations]

Proposed updates Schedule 4 – Excessive Noise

The table below outlines proposed changes to Schedule 4.

Reference (Schedule 4)	Change	Reason
Part 1 - Introductory		
1.01	Unchanged	
1.02	Retain existing definitions and add the following definitions: **continuous vibration** is the continuous, uninterrupted vibration for a defined period, assessed on the basis of weighted rms acceleration values. **day** is the period from 7am to 6pm Monday to Saturday and 8am to 6pm on Sundays and public holidays. **evening** is the period from 6pm to 10 pm. **impulsive vibration** is a rapid build up to a peak, no more than three distinct occurrences in an assessment period, assessed on the basis of acceleration values. **intermittent vibration** is interrupted periods of continuous or repeated periods of impulsive vibration that varies significantly in magnitude, assessed on the basis of vibration dose. It may originate from impulse sources or repetitive sources, or sources which operate intermittently, but which would produce continuous vibration if operated continuously. **night** is the period from 10pm to 7am Monday to Saturday and 10pm to 8am on Sundays and public holidays. **rms** means root mean square as described in Assessing Vibration: a technical guideline (Department of Environment and Conservation NSW, 2006). **standard hours (for construction**) is the period from 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 1pm Saturday, excluding public holidays. **x-axis vibration** (pertaining to whole-body vibration) mechanical vibration acting along the postero-anterior (back-to-front) axis of the human body.	To support interpretation of Schedule 4 and to align with best practice, the latest industry standards and guidelines and feedback from consultation.

Reference (Schedule 4)	Change	Reason
	y-axis vibration (pertaining to whole-body vibration) mechanical vibration acting laterally (sideways) upon the body. **z-axis vibration** (pertaining to whole-body vibration) mechanical vibration acting along the caudocephalic (foot-to-head) axis of the human body Update the following definition as marked in blue text: **time weighting 'F'** has the same meaning as it has in ~~Australian Standard AS 1259~~ AS IEC 61672 Electroacoustics — Sound level meters, Part 1: Specifications	
Part 2 – Sensitive Receptors (may be located on or off an airport site)		
2.01	Unchanged	
2.02 (1)	Unchanged	
2.02 (2)	Update text to: For the purposes of subclause (1), the sound pressure level of a particular noise is the **equivalent continuous** sound pressure level that is exceeded ~~for 10% of a period of at least 15 minutes~~ **within any 15 minute time period ($L_{Aeq,15min}$),** adjusted to take account of tonal character and impulsiveness (if any) of the noise.	To support interpretation of Schedule 4 and to align with best practice, the latest industry standards and guidelines and feedback from consultation.
2.03	Update text to: Noise generated from road traffic on the site of an operator of an undertaking at an airport should not exceed: (a) 60 dB(A) $L_{Aeq,16\ hour}$, calculated as the equivalent continuous ~~A-weighted~~ sound pressure level for a ~~24~~ 16 hour period of measurement from 06:00 hours on a particular day to 22:00 hours on the following day; and (b) 55 dB(A) $L_{Aeq,8\ hour}$, calculated as the equivalent continuous ~~A-weighted~~ sound pressure level for ~~a 24~~ an 8 hour period of measurement from 22:00 hours on a particular day to 06:00 hours on the following day.	
2.04	Update text to: Noise generated from rail traffic operated at an airport should not exceed: **(a)** 85 ~~87~~ dB(A) L_{AFmax}**,** calculated as the ~~average~~ maximum ~~A-weighted sound pressure~~ noise level ~~for a period of at least 15 minutes measurement~~ not exceeded by 95 per cent of individual train pass-by events; and **(b)** 65 ~~60~~ dB(A) $L_{Aeq,\ 16\ hour}$**,** calculated as the equivalent continuous ~~A-weighted~~ sound pressure level for a 16 ~~24~~ hour period of measurement from 06:00 hours on a particular day to 22:00 hours on the following day**;** and	

Reference (Schedule 4)	Change	Reason
	(c) 60 ~~55~~ dB(A) $L_{Aeq,\ 8\ hour}$, calculated as the equivalent continuous ~~A weighted~~ sound pressure level for an 8 hour period of measurement from 22:00 hours on a particular day to 06:00 hours on the following day.	
2.05	Unchanged	
2.06 (1)	Unchanged	
2.06 (2)	Update text to: Intrusive noise generated from an activity mentioned in subclause (1) should not exceed the background noise level at the sensitive receptor site by more than 5dB(A) (at any time).	
2.06 (x)	New text: Noise generated from other airport operations not mentioned in subclause (1) should not exceed 55 dB(A) during the day, 45 dB(A) during the evening and 40 dB(A) during the night, at the sensitive receptor site.	
2.06 (3)	Update text to: For subclause (2) and (x), the sound pressure level of a particular noise is the equivalent continuous sound pressure level that is exceeded ~~for 10% of a period of at least 15 minutes~~ within any 15 minute time period ($L_{Aeq,15min}$), adjusted to take account of tonal character and impulsiveness (if any) of the noise.	
Part 3 – Commercial receptors		
3.01	Unchanged	
3.02	Replace 3.02 (a-e) with: Noise generated from any source at an airport should not exceed 65 dB(A) when measured at the site of a commercial receptor, calculated as the equivalent continuous sound pressure level within any 15 minute time period ($L_{Aeq,15min}$), adjusted to take account of tonal character and impulsiveness (if any) of the noise.	To align with best practice, the latest industry standards and guidelines and feedback from consultation.
Part 4 – Measuring noise		
4.01 (1-3)	Unchanged	
4.01 (4)	Replace 4.01 (4) with: *Road traffic*** The standard to be applied in determining the level of noise generated from particular road traffic at an airport is: ~~Australian Standard AS 2702.~~: (a) Calculation of Road Traffic Noise model (the CoRTN model); and	To replace superseded standards, align with best practice, the latest industry standards and guidelines and feedback from consultation.

Reference (Schedule 4)	Change	Reason
	(b) Federal Highway Administration Model – the FHWA (STAMINA 2.0) model; and (c) Federal Highway Administration Model 2004 – the FHWA (TNM 2.5) model.	
4.01(5)	Update text to: *Rail traffic* The standard to be applied in determining the level of noise generated from particular rail traffic at an airport is ~~Australian Standard AS2377~~ ISO 3095:2025 Railway applications — Acoustics — Measurement of noise emitted by railbound vehicles.***	
4.01(6) and 4.01(7)	Unchanged	
New Part 5 - Vibration		
Proposed new clause	New text regarding Vibration: *Application* This Part applies to sites of sensitive or commercial receptors, and a reference in a provision of this Part to an accepted level of vibration is a reference to maximum weighted rms values for vibration measurable at the site of a sensitive or commercial receptor.	To provide more clarity in regard to new tables for investigation levels for vibration, not previously included in the Schedules.
Proposed new clause	Investigation Levels for vibration (inclusion of 2 tables below)	

* The renewed Regulations specifies that excessive Vibration is a form of excessive noise that may impact on heritage values or sites. However, other forms of excessive noise cannot apply to heritage values or sites.
** Road traffic noise measurements should be conducted having regard to the specifications or guidelines from the road authority of the relevant State.
*** Procedures for measuring rail noise levels at receivers are set out in AS2377: Acoustics – methods for the measurement of railbound vehicle noise (Standards Australia 2002).

New table – Investigation levels for continuous and impulsive vibration

The table below is a proposed new table for inclusion under a new Part 5 of Schedule 5.

	Maximum weighted rms values for vibration acceleration			
	Maximum weighted rms values for vibration acceleration		Impulsive vibration ((m/s^2) 1–80 Hz)	
	z-axis	x- and y-axes	z-axis	x- and y-axes
Sensitive and commercial receptors	**0.040**	**0.028**	**1.28**	**0.92**

New table – Investigation levels for intermittent vibration

The table below is a proposed new table for inclusion under a new Part 5 of Schedule 5.

	Acceptable vibration dose values for intermittent vibration ($m/s^{1.75}$)
Sensitive and commercial receptors	0.80

Appendix A – References

A.1 References for standards, guidelines and methods

- NSW Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2022.
- National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure (AAQ NEMP), 2021.
- Australian and New Zealand Environment Conservation Council (ANZECC) and Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand (ARMCANZ) 2000, Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality' (2000).
- Australian Government, 2018, Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZG) 2018.
- Australian Government (ANZG 2018), Toxicant default guideline values for aquatic ecosystem protection Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) in freshwater Technical brief March 2026.
- National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), 2011. Australian Drinking Water Guidelines | NHMRC (ADWG) V 4 updated June 2025 (NHMRC, 2025).
- National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), 2008 Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Water (NHMRC, 2008).
- National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), 2019 Guidance on Per and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in Recreational Water (NHMRC, 2019).
- National Environmental Protection Council (NEPC), 2013. National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999, (ASC NEPM) as amended in 2013.
- Research Council for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment (CRC CARE) Technical Report No. 10 (Friebel and Nadebaum, 2011).
- Heads of Environment Protection Authority (HEPA) Australia and New Zealand, 2020 PFAS National Environmental Management Plan (PFAS NEMP) Version 3.0 March 2025.
- Standards Australia 2002, AS2377: Acoustics – methods for the measurement of railbound vehicle noise, Standards Australia, Sydney.
- International Organisation for Standardisation (2025). Acoustics - Railway applications Measurement of noise emitted by railbound vehicles (ISO 3095:2025).
- US EPA EMC Promulgated Test Methods | US EPA.
- US EPA EMC: Performance Specifications | US EPA.
- US EPA EMC: Quality Assurance Procedures for Performance Specifications | US EPA.
- United States Center for Disease Control (CDC), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Manual of Analytical Methods 4th Edition 2016, method 6007 (PDF) (https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2003-154/pdfs/6007.pdf).