

AUSTRALIAN SERVICES UNION LOCAL GOVERNMENT & ENERGY DELEGATES CONFERENCE 2020

EBA MODEL CLAUSE - AIR QUALITY

By 1 October each year, Council will undertake a risk assessment with Health and Safety Representatives (HSR's), ASU delegates and members and put in place control measures. The purpose of the risk assessment will include ensuring that Council's policies and procedures relating to air quality are current and that they are communicated to all staff.

Air quality is measured using the World Health Organisation Air Quality Index (AQI). It measures the particles that are in the air and then the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) provides a level of Good, Moderate, Poor, Very Poor and Hazardous based on the number of harmful particles (PM10 and PM2.5) and gases (ozone, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide) in the air.

The following will apply:

- All non-critical outdoor work must cease when the EPA Air Quality Index level is Very Poor or Hazardous. Appropriate PPE must be provided for outdoor workers performing critical work.
- Restrictions on non-critical outdoor work and use of appropriate PPE once AQI reaches Poor.
- If hazardous air is disrupting people inside offices/workspaces (eg if there is no/insufficient/inappropriate air conditioning), Council will relocate employees to another area where the air quality is better. This includes enabling employees to work from home where safe to do so.
- Alternative duties must be provided for employees in sensitive groups on days where the EPA declares the air as Very Poor or Hazardous. Sensitive groups include people with asthma or lung problems of any kind, people with heart disease, diabetes or previous stroke, people over 65 or people who are pregnant.
- Workers who have asthma or any medical condition that may be exacerbated by poor air quality may find that getting to and from work is difficult. These workers can request to work from home when the AQI is Poor, Very Poor or Hazardous.

All employees who work outdoors will be released from duties with no loss of pay if safe work or suitable alternative duties cannot be provided.



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