**Title:**
Press release: Air Pollution: 1971 figures

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JOINT STATEMENT FROM MINISTER OF HEALTH AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION.

AIR POLLUTION: 1971 FIGURES

30.10.72

Air pollution monitoring figures released today for the year to the end of December 1971 suggest that only on a very few occasions did any South Australian readings exceed overseas air quality standards.

The figures were released jointly by the Health Minister, Mr. A.J. Shard, and the Conservation Minister, Mr. G.R. Broomhill.

The 1971 figures show that at no recording stations in South Australia did the yearly level of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere exceed U.S. standards.

However at Christies Beach (once) in November, and at Port Pirie (four times), the maximum recommended 24 hourly concentrations were exceeded.

These high figures were obviously caused by the proximity of industrial points - the Port Stanvac oil refinery near Christies Beach and the Broken Hill Associated lead-zinc smelters at Port Pirie.

It is anticipated that existing and pending clean air regulations should see a steady decline in all atmospheric pollution figures in the coming year.

Conversion of many industries to natural gas as a fuel source replacing coal or fuel oil, was another factor which should cause improvement.

The next (1972) set of air pollution figures will be able to tell a more comprehensive story. The scope of the Department of Public Health's monitoring service has been widened by the introduction of a mobile sampling station.

Fall-out gauges have been operating in Adelaide and country industrial areas since 1961. Some of these gauges were resited in 1971 to permit a more detailed coverage.

The new mobile monitoring station - which has been moved around various city and suburban kerbside sites - collects samples for determination of carbon monoxide, ozone, sulphur dioxide, smoke density and heavy metals. Other air impurities can be sampled if required, if environmental sources suggest their presence, for example fluorides.

And in the future it is intended to establish fixed monitoring stations to sample total oxidants, oxides of nitrogen and carbon monoxide.

This will be done as trained staff, equipment and finance are available.

The 1971 figures for annual deposits of insoluble matter - the most appropriate indicator of man-made impurities - are favourable, compared with recommended U.S. levels.

Smoke density readings have been taken at various sampling stations since 1963.

No recognised standard applies for smoke density, although the figure of 3.3 (as co-efficient of haze units per 1,000 linear feet) has been suggested as a good guide.

In all cases, the 1971 figures are lower than 1970, although at one station (Thebarton) the figures were the same.

South Australia has a low coefficient of haze because of the State's limited use of coal at an industrial level. New South Wales figures are many times S.A. peak levels.

Examples of 1971 statistics for fallout, in tons of water insoluble matter per square mile per month, expressed as a mean:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| RICHMOND | 15.2 | COROMANDEL VALLEY | 4.8 |
| KILBURN | 14.8 | ADELAIDE | 6.3 |
| TAPEROO | 13.9 | PROSPECT | 6.4 |
| UNLEY PARK | 12.8 | LINDEN PARK | 4.4 |

SALISBURY (different gauges) 6.7, 10.5, 12.2
PORT STANVAC 13.3, 13.7
MOUNT GAMBIER 10.2, 12.3, 9.5, 11.4, 12.5