

9 Atmospheric Factors - Construction Impacts

9.1 Background

Construction works for the SSDP have the potential to impact on the atmospheric environment. Greenhouse gas emissions are expected to be within the range considered normal for construction projects of this size.

Management actions for dust suppression for both the plant site and the pipeline are expected to control dust emissions effectively through dust suppression measures and prompt rehabilitation. The following matters are dealt with in this chapter:

1. Air quality – particulate matter (dust)

9.2 Air Quality – particulate matter (dust)

9.2.1 EPA Objective

To protect the surrounding land users such that dust and emissions of particulate matter will not adversely impact upon welfare and amenity or cause health problems.

9.2.2 Potential Impact

Negative effects of particulate matter (dust) during construction activities for the project can be categorised broadly as effects on human health, welfare or general amenity, and deposition on vegetation with the possibility of smothering and lowered photosynthesis.

Dust will only be generated by the project during the construction period, and only during initial land clearing activities. Therefore, any negative effects from dust are expected to be localised and temporary.

9.2.3 Policy and Standards

- EPA Guidance Statement No.18 (EPA, 2000)
- National Environmental Protection Measure (NEPM) for air quality

9.2.4 Management of Impacts

Contractors will employ different construction dust management activities applicable to construction of: (1) the plants site, and (2) the pipeline. For both construction projects, the Contractor will minimise the area of clearing and ensure that clearing activities adhere to the commitments in this Public Environmental Review.

Additional management actions to control dust during construction of the plant will include:

- Monitor daily weather forecasts and provide this information to persons involved in dust generating activities
- Employ site and situation-appropriate dust mitigation measures including dampening potentially dust generating soils, hydro-mulching, wind fencing, hardstanding or chemical dust suppressants.
- Dust management actions employed during water transfer pipeline construction will include:
- The Contractor will not burn cleared vegetation.
- Prompt rehabilitation will be conducted on the disturbed corridor.

- The Contractor will evenly respread any stockpiled topsoil over the construction area as soon as reasonably practicable following ripping and grading.

9.2.5 Predicted Outcome

It is anticipated that the EPA objective can be met for this factor.