

THIS CHAPTER COVERS:

Air quality

- Air quality monitoring
- Particulate matter
- Nitrogen oxides
- Volatile organic compounds
- Carbon monoxide

AIR

Clean, unpolluted air is essential to the well-being of Taranaki's communities and to the environment as a whole.

Taranaki can be proud of its excellent air quality that contributes to the attraction of the region as a safe place to live with an enviable lifestyle and all the great outdoors has to offer.





*'The overall quality of
air in the Taranaki
region is excellent.'*



The combination of a windy and exposed environment, a dispersed and small population, relatively light industry and a low number of vehicles means the overall quality of air in the Taranaki region is excellent. With air discharges from industry and agriculture well regulated and no widespread change in the nature of regional emissions, there are no significant pressures upon the quality of air in the region.

Taranaki is one of only two regions in New Zealand that have never exceeded national air quality standards. Therefore, we have never been required to create a 'gazetted airshed' in response to air quality issues. Because the Council has continued to demonstrate that the region does not generally experience issues with air quality, Ministry for the Environment monitoring is not compulsory in Taranaki, as it is in other parts of New Zealand with air quality issues.

Most emissions to air in Taranaki are diffuse emissions from natural sources—from vegetation, landcover, farm animals and sea-spray drift. They also come from industry, homes and motor vehicles. Point source discharges (from a single large source) are more obvious than diffuse emissions and generally come from industry and farms with housed livestock (such as piggeries and poultry sheds).

The potential effects of air emissions range from amenity effects (such as haze, smoke, or offensive odours) to potential or actual negative impacts on human and ecosystem health. Increased levels of poultry farming and hydrocarbon exploration and production have resulted in increased resource consents for air discharges in the region. However, effective regulations and monitoring mean there has been a negligible impact on local air quality.

The Council monitors air quality as part of resource consent compliance programmes to ensure resource consent conditions are met in industry and agriculture and also in residential areas (for things such as backyard fires). Council officers also undertake regular testing of air quality in areas determined to be 'worst-case scenario' checkpoints, such as urban areas of high traffic flow. In this way, we can be sure that activities have no adverse effects and the high quality of air in the region is maintained.

'Taranaki is one of only two regions in New Zealand that have never exceeded national air quality standards ...'

