Chapter Fourteen

Environment

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This chapter of the Yearbook presents information about Australia's environment. This is a huge topic and there are many initiatives worthy of presentation. With the passage of time, more and more data is becoming available. However, not all information is updated on an annual basis, so rather than repeat it, references are provided here to information in previous Yearbooks.

- Biodiversity and introduced species see Yearbook No. 76 and Australia's Environment: Issues and Facts (4140.0), chapter 2.
- Water resources see Yearbook No. 76, chapter 18.
- Environmental law see Yearbook No. 76 for details on various legislation in the Commonwealth and State jurisdiction that relate to the environment.
- World Heritage Areas details of Australian properties on the World Heritage List are provided in Yearbook No. 76.
- Management of wastes, particularly on local council activities, landfill sites and waste

minimisation, see Yearbook No. 76, and Australia's Environment: Issues and Facts (4140.0).

ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

Environmental indicators are increasingly seen as a necessary tool for helping to set the course towards a sustainable future. The OECD has been undertaking work on indicators as part of its program on environmental economics that would integrate environment and economic decision-making. Indicators need to be viewed in a dynamic context, so the set of indicators can change to reflect the changing nature of policy and the seriousness of different environmental problems.

The following data reflect economic and population changes of environmental significance. The data have been prepared by the OECD and show a comparison of Australia with some selected countries.

					Nether-			Total	Total
Indicator		Australia	Canada	USA	lands	Sweden	UK	OECD	world
Carbon dioxide (CO ₂) emis	sions								
(million tonnes)									
. ,	1980	221	439	4,913	184	75	601	10,150	18,792
	1990	272	437	5,038	183	56	598	10,361	21,562
	1992	288	457	5,188	190	57	610	10,657	n.a.
Greenhouse gas emissions	1990								
Methane ('000 t)		5,000	3,700	37,000	833	457	4,371	70,400	274,900
CFCs ('000 t)		8	14	130	9	2	n.a.	400	600
CO ₂ (million t)		287	461	5,067	200	60	n.a.	10,803	22,300
Estimation of renewable free water resources (internal resources) long-term annu	esh al								
average (billion cubic met	res)	343	2,740	2,460	11	167	71	n.a.	n.a.
Total water abstraction									
(million m ³)	1980	n.a.	37,864	525,000	14,794	4,106	13,912	927,000	n.a.
	1990	n.a.	46,878	468,000	n.a.	2,932	14,237	900,800	n.a.
Population served by waste									
water treatment plants (%)	1980	n.a.	64	70	73	82	82	52	n.a.
	1990	n.a.	70	n.a.	93	95	87	63	n.a.
Major protected areas	1990	_							
('000 [°] km²)		457	701	983	4	18	46	2,482	6,515
(% of land area)		5.9	7.0	10.5	9.5	3.9	18.9	7.7	4.9

14.1 OECD ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

... continued

					Nether-			Total	Total
Indicator	A	ustralia	Canada	USA	lands	Sweden	UK	OECD	world
Wooded area									
('000 km²)	1980	1,059	4,364	2,968	3.3	279	21	10,113	41,003
	1990	1,060	4,533	2,946	3.3	280	24	10,281	40,276
(% of land area)	1990	13.8	49.2	32.1	9.9	68.1	10.0	33.2	30.8
Waste generated Municipal waste									
('000 tonnes)	1990	n.a.	16,000	177,500	7,430	3,200	20,000	408,000	n.a.
Production of hazardous wa	iste		6 000	100.000			a c 40		
('000 t)	1990	n.a.	6,080	180,000	1,040	500	2,540	n.a.	<u>n.a.</u>
Total energy supply per unit of GDP	it								
$(index \ 1985 = 100)$	1980	108	108	109	106	99	107	107	n.a.
	1991	107	97	97	97	95	94	94	n.a.
Tonnes of oil equivalent									
(TOE)/'000 \$US	1985	0.38	0.52	0.44	0.36	0.44	0.31	0.35	n.a.
Total energy supply per car	oita								
(index 1985 = 100)	1981	101	100	103	102	90	96	99	n.a.
(1991	112	102	103	109	100	106	106	n.a.
TOE/capita	<u>198</u> 5	4.68	7.67	7.41	4.25	5.70	3.59	4.50	n.a.
Road vehicle stocks Motor vehicles in use									
(millions)	1981	7.6	13.4	158.3	4.9	3.1	17.5	341.4	427.2
	1991	10.0	16.8	192.3	6.2	4.0	23.4	449.5	608.0
Public R&D expenditure for environment protection									
(\$US million)	1985	24.9	45.9	258.0	52.4	20.7	99.6	n.a.	n.a.
(, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	1991	50.7	41.3	361.2	69.0	48.9	112.5	n.a.	n.a.
(% of total R&D)	1991	3.5	1.6	0.7	4.1	3.1	1.7	n.a.	n.a.
National population									
(million)	1981	14.9	24.4	230.1	14.3	8.3	56.4	786.7	4,513.5
	1991	17.3	27.0	252.7	15.1	8.6	57.6	844.8	n.a.
Population density									
(persons/km ²)	1981	1.9	2.4	24.6	381.7	18.5	230.2	24.5	33.7
·•	1991	2.2	2.7	27.0	403.7	19.2	235.4	26.4	n.a.
GDP @ 1985 prices and purchasing power parities									
(index 1985 = 100)	1981	88.5	89.9	90.4	94.5	91.4	89.4	90.7	n.a.
	1991	114.8	112.7	111.9	117.4	108.8	114.3	117.3	n.a .

14.1 OECD ENVIRONMENTAL DATA -- continued

Source: OECD, Environmental Data Compendium, 1993.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC)

ANZECC was formed, in 1991, by combining the Australian and New Zealand Environment Council (ANZEC) and the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers (CONCOM). Some of the 1993 activities of ANZECC included:

• National Lead Abatement Education Campaign, to inform Australians about the need to reduce the amount of lead entering the environment, with the key aim being to reduce the consumption of leaded petrol. A price differential between leaded and unleaded petrol was introduced in February 1994.

- National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) ANZECC endorsed State and Territory participation in the development of the NPI, being undertaken by the Commonwealth Environment Protection Agency (CEPA).
- National Reserve System ANZECC agreed to the finalisation of a technical paper about scientific data and analytical methods relevant to the establishment of a National Reserve System, which recognises the importance of a representative system of protected areas.
- National Recycling Targets there was agreement on the need for a more strategic, proactive and coordinated role in waste minimisation and recycling issues, with work to be established to identify instances where standards are inhibiting the development of and uses for recycled materials.

Commonwealth Environment Protection Agency (CEPA)

CEPA is an agency of the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories. It will interact with the National Environment Protection Authority (NEPA), when it is established under the terms of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment (see Yearbook 1994), and with ANZECC to provide a uniform, coordinated approach to protecting Australia's environment.

The current projects of CEPA are:

- Environmental Impact Assessment.
- National Pollutant Inventory which will assemble information on pollutants entering the Australian environment as emissions to air, land and water, and waste disposal to land.
- Environment technologies, involving the running of programs to assist the industry's development, develop export markets and setting up a database on the capabilities of the Australian industry.
- Dumping wastes at sea administration of laws to control waste dumping at sea.
- Contaminated sites issues such as technical guidelines for the assessment and management of sites.
- Water quality.
- Air pollution, through work on national lead abatement strategy, development of national guidelines for industrial emissions and ambient air quality goals.
- Safe management of biotechnology.

- Ozone protection, through the coordination of national ozone protection activities and input to international activities under the Montreal Protocol.
- Waste minimisation.
- Chemicals management through assessment of the environmental hazards of agricultural, veterinary and industrial chemicals.
- Management of hazardous waste by administering Commonwealth hazardous waste legislation which implements the Basel Convention, an agreement to reduce generation of hazardous waste and to ensure it is disposed of in an environmentally safe manner as close to the source as possible.
- Cleaner production in industry, which involves programs with industry designed to demonstrate the economic and environmental benefits of product and process redesign from an environmental perspective.

Protection of freshwater resources

This section focuses on some of the programs which include in their aims protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources. This matter features in the UNCED Agenda 21 program.

The National Landcare Program (NLP).

The Decade of Landcare Program has been developed to provide an integrated policy and program package to resource users and managers. It provides an overall collaborative framework within which all participants governments, the farming sector, industry, the conservation movement, land and water managers and the community — are encouraged to make their contribution to sustainable management of all resources. Within the plans, the contribution of women to the process of improved resource management has been emphasised.

The NLP has three components — the Community Landcare Component bringing together community-based natural resource management policies and programs; the Federal/State/Territory governments' component, which draws together in partnership agreements the objectives, strategies and evaluation arrangements for joint action on natural resource management issues; and a national initiative component, which covers activities of national significance, undertaken by the Government, for example, research and development.



Major elements funded under the NLP include integrated catchment management, salinity mitigation, land resource management, water assessment and planning, vegetation protection and re-establishment, flood plain management, the country towns water management program, community landcare, property management planning and biological diversity conservation. Australian Government funding, in conjunction with financial assistance from other sources such as State Governments and the community, will be provided to priority natural resource management projects through partnership agreements.

In 1993–94 funding of \$105.2 million was allocated under the NLP. Of this amount, \$10.2 million was allocated for catchment management to improve water quality through improved land, water and related vegetation management. A further \$1.6 million will improve sewage treatment at selected sites to reduce phosphorous loads in the Darling Catchment.

The National Water Quality Management

In association with the States and Strategy. Territories, the Federal Government is developing the National Water Quality Management Strategy which covers fresh and marine waters, reclaimed water and rural water management. The objective of the Strategy is to achieve sustainable use of the nation's water resources by protecting and enhancing their quality while maintaining economic and social development. The Strategy provides a nationally consistent approach through the National Water Quality Management Guidelines which have a shared national objective but provide the flexibility to respond to local and regional circumstances.

The Strategy also encompasses the development of guidelines for urban stormwater and sewerage systems addressing in particular the following issues: effluent management, acceptance of trade (industrial) wastes, the reuse of reclaimed water and sludge management.

Other programs contributing to improved water quality are:

• the National Waterwatch Program which aims to improve community awareness of water quality issues through supporting and facilitating the development of community-based water quality monitoring programs; and

• the National Wetlands Management Program which seeks to promote the wise use of wetlands and has, as one of its goals, the production of a wetlands management manual for both technical and community use.

The Australian Guidelines for Drinking

Water Quality are intended to provide the community and the water supply industry with guidance on a nationally consistent approach to what constitutes good quality drinking water. They are concerned with the safety of water, from a health point of view and with its aesthetic quality. They are intended for drinking water (except bottled or packaged water) irrespective of its source (municipal supplies, rain water tanks, bores, point-of-use treatment devices, etc.) or where it is used (homes, restaurants, camping areas, ships, etc).

The Guidelines for the use of reclaimed water address the need to use an important resource efficiently and to conserve it through reuse.

Monitoring river health. The Federal Government has established programs on monitoring and reporting on the state of Australia's rivers and has begun investigations into the environmental flow requirements of its waterways. They include the community-based Waterwatch Program and the River Murray Corridors of Green community-based program which aims to develop a network of vegetation corridors along the Murray River.

The 1992 Monitoring River Health initiative incorporates two components — environmental flows (allocated \$2.5 million over four financial years) and scientific water quality monitoring (allocated \$7.5 million over four financial years). The Federal Government provided \$10.1 million in 1993–94 under the National Landcare Program for catchment management to improve water quality through improved land, water and related vegetation management.

The National Drought Policy is based on sustainable development, risk management, productivity growth and structural adjustment in the farm sector. It seeks to encourage the sectors of rural Australia to adopt a self-reliant approach to managing for climatic variability.

Knowledge of the natural variability of climate and its impact on water resources is essential

to the sustainable management of our freshwater resources. The Bureau of Meteorology is the national hydro-meteorological authority charged with observation and scientific study of the atmospheric and land phases of the hydrological cycle. An integrated assessment of resources, essential to the management of the resource, involves the measurement and analysis of rainfall, evaporation, stream flow and underground water. The Bureau operates national networks for the measurement of climatic data and provides a national focus for the coordination, monitoring, evaluation and review of hydro-meteorological and hydrological data collection.

Research activities. The Federal Government funds research and development (R&D) to increase the sustainable use of Australia's land and water resources.

Some agencies fund R&D aimed directly at achieving sustainable use of Australia's land and water resources. Of particular interest is the Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation (LWRRDC). Its objective includes the funding of R&D to increase the sustainable use of land and water. The LWRRDC has identified river research as a high priority in its strategic plan for 1992-97. Two major issues to be addressed are an understanding of in-stream and flood plain processes, including the flow requirements of rivers, and the development of indicators of river health.

Other agencies fund R&D which either directly or indirectly helps to achieve

sustainable use, most notably the Co-operative Research Centres (CRC) Program and the Industry Research and Development Board (IRDC). Under the CRC program, research, industry and educational institutions collaborate to develop proposals for the establishment of specific CRCs. There is now a number of CRCs undertaking research into specific aspects of land and water use in Australia.

Two recently established CRCs, one for freshwater ecology and the other for tropical rainforest ecology and management, intend to establish programs that will add to scientific knowledge on the nation's rivers. The CRC for Catchment Hydrology has established programs on river research.

Through the Industry Innovation Program, the Industry Research and Development Board funds a range of companies and research organisations undertaking R&D on sustainable use of Australia's land and water resources. Examples include the development of new technologies to treat waste water and sewage and new techniques to treat contaminated sediments and soils.

VISITS TO NATIONAL PARKS

Table 14.2, showing how many persons visited a heritage area, national or State park in the 12 months to May 1992, gives some indication of the numbers of people who experience Australia's flora and fauna. Some 63 per cent of Australians over 18 years old made at least one visit.

Visited	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
					- '000				
Yes	2,670.8	1,958.0	1,298.7	697.0	808.7	216.3	70.0	129.4	7,848.9
No	1,542.7	1,233.6	792.1	375.1	374.0	111.6	23.7	72.1	4,524.8
Don't know	30.2	38.6	12.1	3.5	6.2	1.3	**	4.5	96.4

1.075.6

64.8

34.9

0.3

1,188.9

per cent -

68.0

31.5

0.5

329.1

65.7

33.9

0.4

93.6

74.7

25.3

**

206.0 12.470.1

62.9

36.3

0.8

62.8

35.0

2.2

14.2 PERSONS WHO VISITED HERITAGE AREA, NATIONAL OR STATE PARK IN THE 12 MONTHS ENDED MAY 1992

(a) Aged 18 years or more.

Total persons(a)

Yes

No

Don't know

Source: Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices (4602.0).

62.9

36.4

0.7

4.243.8

3.230.1

60.6

38.2

1.2

2.102.9

61.8

37.7

0.6

448 Year Book, Australia

About 36 per cent of the population that was included in the May 1992 household survey on environmental issues did not visit a heritage area, national or State park. Table 14.3 provides some of the reasons given.

14.3	REASON FOR PERSONS NOT VISITING HERITAGE AREAS OR PARKS IN THE
	12 MONTHS ENDED MAY 1992

Reason not visited	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
					- '000				
No time	370.5	314.4	187.7	87.4	103.9	29.5	10.6	25.0	1,129.0
Cost	57.8	44.8	41.5	24.5	14.6	3.3	**	4.1	190.6
Access/distance	106.6	93.1	61.5	26.0	33.1	10.3	3.0	4.1	337.7
Unable to	125.1	95.6	64.8	24.5	27.4	9.7	0.6	2.9	350.5
Not interested	59.6	40.5	37.5	11.6	16.2	4.1	0.3	1.8	171.7
Don't know	4.6	10.3	2.3	4.2	3.3	0.1	**	**	24.8
Other	41.7	36.5	35.4	11.7	10.4	3.7	0.3	1.7	141.5
No reason	776.8	598.5	361.4	185.2	165.1	50.9	8.8	32.4	2,178.9
Total persons(a)	1,542.7	1,233.6	792.1	375.1	374.0	111.6	23.7	72.1	4,524.8
				_	per cent -	_			
No time	24.0	25.5	23.7	23.3	27.8	26.4	44.8	34.7	25.0
Cost	3.7	3.6	5.2	6.5	3.9	3.0	**	5.7	4.2
Access/distance	6.9	7.5	7.8	6.9	8.9	9.2	12.9	5.7	7.5
Unable to	8.1	7.8	8.2	6.5	7.3	8.7	2.4	4.0	7.7
Not interested	3.9	3.3	4.7	3.1	4.3	3.7	1.4	2.5	3.8
Don't know	0.3	0.8	0.3	1.1	0.9	0.1	**	**	0.5
Other	2.7	3.0	4.5	3.1	2.8	3.3	1.4	2.3	3.1
No reason	50.4	48.5	45.6	49.4	44.1	45.6	37.1	45.0	48.2
() 1 10				_					

(a) Aged 18 years or more.

Source: Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices (4602.0).

14.4 CONCERN ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, MAY 1992

Concern about environmental problems	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
				-	- '000				
Yes	3,125.5	2,428.2	1,556.9	828.7	903.6	232.7	74.6	172.0	9,322.2
No	1,021.7	717.3	505.1	230.3	258.9	92.8	16.5	29.7	2,872.3
Don't know	96.6	84.7	40.9	16.6	26.4	3.6	2.5	4.2	275.6
Total persons(a)	4,243.8	3,230.1	2,102.9	1,075.6	1,188.9	329.1	93.6	206.0	12,470.1
					per cent -	_			
Yes	73.6	75.2	74.0	77.0	76.0	70.7	79.6	83.5	74.8
No	24.1	22.2	24.0	21.4	21.8	28.2	17.7	14.4	23.0
Don't know	2.3	2.6	1.9	1.5	2.2	1.1	2.7	2.1	2.2

(a) Aged 18 years or more.

Source: Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices (4602.0).

CONCERN ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

life. Tables 14.4 to 14.6 shows the extent and nature of the concerns of Australians about the environment in 1992. The problems registering the highest level of concern were air pollution, destruction of ecosystems and ocean pollution.

Concern about environmental quality is another measure of the perception of the quality of

14.5 SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS CONCERNING PERSONS(a), MAY 1992

NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
				- 000'	_			
1,365.6	1,000.4	779.3	338.0	370.5	118.1	33.3	83.4	4,088.4
820.5	664.3	448.0	184.4	157.2	65.7	27.5	40.9	2,408.5
1,794.1	1,401.3	775.1	385.5	412.6	111.8	38.7	90.7	5,009.8
1,459.0	942.0	766.3	316.5	330.6	114.1	39.0	60.6	4,028.1
1,268.9	987.8	656.4	313.1	303.9	99.5	27.7	65.4	3,722.8
646.9	397.5	318.2	146.6	145.3	55.1	14.9	28.1	1,752.7
1,045.2	738.2	457.2	231.4	229.1	80.8	29.3	45.4	2,856.4
912.6	743.7	450.0	199.1	209.5	72.3	29.2	37.6	2,654.0
1,168.9	1,028.1	551.5	312.9	305.1	92.6	36.0	70.7	3,565.8
727.2	663.2	318.7	165.8	153.2	63.1	19.5	39.2	2,150.0
566.7	597.6	343.7	148.2	139.1	54.3	21.9	31.8	1,903.5
206.8	170.5	108.1	28.8	27.8	18.4	4.2	2.9	567.7
356.2	319.0	173.7	82.7	69.9	34.7	11.0	8.0	1,055.4
617.4	577.3	305.0	127.1	106.2	52.2	21.0	17.1	1,823.4
551.7	408.6	315.8	96.6	108.6	46.0	17.6	25.9	1,570.8
632.6	541.4	325.1	142.8	127.1	54.5	18.2	31.2	1,872.9
545.2	518.7	327.0	114.2	99.4	55.8	25.9	16.6	1,702.8
223.3	166.4	137.2	80.8	70.4	18.5	9.8	10.7	717.2
1,118.3	802.0	546.1	246.9	285.3	96.4	19.1	34.0	3,148.0
4,243.8	3,230.1	2,102.9	1,075.6	1,188.9	329.1	93.6	206.0	12,470.1
				- per cent -	_			
				P-1				
32.2	31.0	37.1	31.4	31.2	35.9	35.5	40.5	32.8
19.3	20.6	21.3	17.1	13.2	20.0	29.4	19.8	19.3
42.3	43.4	36.9	35.8	347	24.0			40.2
			55.0	34.7	34.0	41.4	44.0	40.Z
34.4	29.2	36,4	29.4	27.8	34.0 34.7	41.4 41.7	44.0 29.4	40.2 32.3
34.4 29.9	29.2 30.6	36.4 31.2	29.4 29.1	27.8 25.6	34.0 34.7 30.2	41.4 41.7 29.6	44.0 29.4 31.8	40.2 32.3 29.9
34.4 29.9 15.2	29.2 30.6 12.3	36.4 31.2 15.1	29.4 29.1 13.6	27.8 25.6 12.2	34.0 34.7 30.2 16.7	41.4 41.7 29.6 15.9	44.0 29.4 31.8 13.6	40.2 32.3 29.9 14.1
34.4 29.9 15.2 24.6	29.2 30.6 12.3 22.9	36.4 31.2 15.1 21.7	29.4 29.1 13.6 21.5	27.8 25.6 12.2 19.3	34.7 30.2 16.7 24.5	41.4 41.7 29.6 15.9 31.3	44.0 29.4 31.8 13.6 22.0	40.2 32.3 29.9 14.1 22.9
34.4 29.9 15.2 24.6 21.5	29.2 30.6 12.3 22.9 23.0	36.4 31.2 15.1 21.7 21.4	29.4 29.1 13.6 21.5 18.5	27.8 25.6 12.2 19.3 17.6	34.7 30.2 16.7 24.5 22.0	41.4 41.7 29.6 15.9 31.3 31.2	44.0 29.4 31.8 13.6 22.0 18.3	40.2 32.3 29.9 14.1 22.9 21.3
34.4 29.9 15.2 24.6 21.5 27.5	29.2 30.6 12.3 22.9 23.0 31.8	36.4 31.2 15.1 21.7 21.4 26.2	29.4 29.1 13.6 21.5 18.5 29.1	27.8 25.6 12.2 19.3 17.6 25.7	34.0 34.7 30.2 16.7 24.5 22.0 28.1	41.4 41.7 29.6 15.9 31.3 31.2 38.5	44.0 29.4 31.8 13.6 22.0 18.3 34.3	40.2 32.3 29.9 14.1 22.9 21.3 28.6
34.4 29.9 15.2 24.6 21.5 27.5 17.1	29.2 30.6 12.3 22.9 23.0 31.8 20.5	36.4 31.2 15.1 21.7 21.4 26.2 15.2	29.4 29.1 13.6 21.5 18.5 29.1 15.4	27.8 25.6 12.2 19.3 17.6 25.7 12.9	34.0 34.7 30.2 16.7 24.5 22.0 28.1 19.2	41.4 41.7 29.6 15.9 31.3 31.2 38.5 20.8	44.0 29.4 31.8 13.6 22.0 18.3 34.3 19.0	40.2 32.3 29.9 14.1 22.9 21.3 28.6 17.2
34.4 29.9 15.2 24.6 21.5 27.5 17.1 13.4	29.2 30.6 12.3 22.9 23.0 31.8 20.5 18.5	36.4 31.2 15.1 21.7 21.4 26.2 15.2 16.3	29.4 29.1 13.6 21.5 18.5 29.1 15.4 13.8	27.8 25.6 12.2 19.3 17.6 25.7 12.9 11.7	34.7 30.2 16.7 24.5 22.0 28.1 19.2 16.5	41.4 41.7 29.6 15.9 31.3 31.2 38.5 20.8 23.4	44.0 29.4 31.8 13.6 22.0 18.3 34.3 19.0 15.5	40.2 32.3 29.9 14.1 22.9 21.3 28.6 17.2 15.3
34.4 29.9 15.2 24.6 21.5 27.5 17.1 13.4 4.9	29.2 30.6 12.3 22.9 23.0 31.8 20.5 18.5 5.3	36.4 31.2 15.1 21.7 21.4 26.2 15.2 16.3 5.1	29.4 29.1 13.6 21.5 18.5 29.1 15.4 13.8 2.7	27.8 25.6 12.2 19.3 17.6 25.7 12.9 11.7 2.3	34.0 34.7 30.2 16.7 24.5 22.0 28.1 19.2 16.5 5.6	41.4 41.7 29.6 15.9 31.3 31.2 38.5 20.8 23.4 4.5	44.0 29.4 31.8 13.6 22.0 18.3 34.3 19.0 15.5 1.4	40.2 32.3 29.9 14.1 22.9 21.3 28.6 17.2 15.3 4.6
34.4 29.9 15.2 24.6 21.5 27.5 17.1 13.4 4.9 8.4	29.2 30.6 12.3 22.9 23.0 31.8 20.5 18.5 5.3 9.9	36.4 31.2 15.1 21.7 21.4 26.2 15.2 16.3 5.1 8.3	29.4 29.1 13.6 21.5 18.5 29.1 15.4 13.8 2.7 7.7	27.8 25.6 12.2 19.3 17.6 25.7 12.9 11.7 2.3 5.9	34.0 34.7 30.2 16.7 24.5 22.0 28.1 19.2 16.5 5.6 10.5	41.4 41.7 29.6 15.9 31.3 31.2 38.5 20.8 23.4 4.5 11.8	44.0 29.4 31.8 13.6 22.0 18.3 34.3 19.0 15.5 1.4 3.9	40.2 32.3 29.9 14.1 22.9 21.3 28.6 17.2 15.3 4.6 8.5
34.4 29.9 15.2 24.6 21.5 27.5 17.1 13.4 4.9 8.4 14.5	29.2 30.6 12.3 22.9 23.0 31.8 20.5 18.5 5.3 9.9 17.9	36.4 31.2 15.1 21.7 21.4 26.2 15.2 16.3 5.1 8.3 14.5	29.4 29.1 13.6 21.5 18.5 29.1 15.4 13.8 2.7 7.7 11.8	12.2 19.3 17.6 25.7 12.9 11.7 2.3 5.9 8.9	34.0 34.7 30.2 16.7 24.5 22.0 28.1 19.2 16.5 5.6 10.5 15.9	41.4 41.7 29.6 15.9 31.3 31.2 38.5 20.8 23.4 4.5 11.8 22.5	44.0 29.4 31.8 13.6 22.0 18.3 34.3 19.0 15.5 1.4 3.9 8.3	40.2 32.3 29.9 14.1 22.9 21.3 28.6 17.2 15.3 4.6 8.5 14.6
34.4 29.9 15.2 24.6 21.5 27.5 17.1 13.4 4.9 8.4 14.5 13.0	29.2 30.6 12.3 22.9 23.0 31.8 20.5 18.5 5.3 9.9 17.9 12.7	36.4 31.2 15.1 21.7 21.4 26.2 15.2 16.3 5.1 8.3 14.5 15.0	29.4 29.1 13.6 21.5 18.5 29.1 15.4 13.8 2.7 7.7 11.8 9.0	25.6 12.2 19.3 17.6 25.7 12.9 11.7 2.3 5.9 8.9 9.1	34.7 30.2 16.7 24.5 22.0 28.1 19.2 16.5 5.6 10.5 15.9 14.0	41.4 41.7 29.6 15.9 31.3 31.2 38.5 20.8 23.4 4.5 11.8 22.5 18.8	44.0 29.4 31.8 13.6 22.0 18.3 34.3 19.0 15.5 1.4 3.9 8.3 12.6	40.2 32.3 29.9 14.1 22.9 21.3 28.6 17.2 15.3 4.6 8.5 14.6 12.6
34.4 29.9 15.2 24.6 21.5 27.5 17.1 13.4 4.9 8.4 14.5 13.0 14.9	29.2 30.6 12.3 22.9 23.0 31.8 20.5 18.5 5.3 9.9 17.9 12.7 16.8	36.4 31.2 15.1 21.7 21.4 26.2 15.2 16.3 5.1 8.3 14.5 15.0 15.5	29.4 29.1 13.6 21.5 18.5 29.1 15.4 13.8 2.7 7.7 11.8 9.0 13.3	94.7 27.8 25.6 12.2 19.3 17.6 25.7 12.9 11.7 2.3 5.9 8.9 9.1 10.7	34.7 30.2 16.7 24.5 22.0 28.1 19.2 16.5 5.6 10.5 15.9 14.0 16.6	41.4 41.7 29.6 15.9 31.3 31.2 38.5 20.8 23.4 4.5 11.8 22.5 18.8 19.4	44.0 29.4 31.8 13.6 22.0 18.3 34.3 19.0 15.5 1.4 3.9 8.3 12.6 15.2	40.2 32.3 29.9 14.1 22.9 21.3 28.6 17.2 15.3 4.6 8.5 14.6 12.6 12.6 15.0
34.4 29.9 15.2 24.6 21.5 27.5 17.1 13.4 4.9 8.4 14.5 13.0 14.9 12.8	29.2 30.6 12.3 22.9 23.0 31.8 20.5 18.5 5.3 9.9 17.9 12.7 16.8 16.1	36.4 31.2 15.1 21.7 21.4 26.2 15.2 16.3 5.1 8.3 14.5 15.0 15.5 15.6	29.4 29.1 13.6 21.5 18.5 29.1 15.4 13.8 2.7 7.7 11.8 9.0 13.3 10.6	94.7 27.8 25.6 12.2 19.3 17.6 25.7 12.9 11.7 2.3 5.9 9.1 10.7 8.4	34.7 30.2 16.7 24.5 22.0 28.1 19.2 16.5 5.6 10.5 15.9 14.0 16.6 17.0	41.4 41.7 29.6 15.9 31.3 31.2 38.5 20.8 23.4 4.5 11.8 22.5 18.8 19.4 27.6	44.0 29.4 31.8 13.6 22.0 18.3 34.3 19.0 15.5 1.4 3.9 8.3 12.6 15.2 8.1	40.2 32.3 29.9 14.1 22.9 21.3 28.6 17.2 15.3 4.6 8.5 14.6 12.6 15.0 15.0 13.7
34.4 29.9 15.2 24.6 21.5 27.5 17.1 13.4 4.9 8.4 14.5 13.0 14.9 12.8 5.3	29.2 30.6 12.3 22.9 23.0 31.8 20.5 18.5 5.3 9.9 17.9 12.7 16.8 16.1 5.2	36.4 31.2 15.1 21.7 21.4 26.2 15.2 16.3 5.1 8.3 14.5 15.0 15.5 15.6 6.5	29.4 29.1 13.6 21.5 18.5 29.1 15.4 13.8 2.7 7.7 11.8 9.0 13.3 10.6 7.5	54.7 27.8 25.6 12.2 19.3 17.6 25.7 12.9 11.7 2.3 5.9 8.9 9.1 10.7 8.4 5.9	34.7 30.2 16.7 24.5 22.0 28.1 19.2 16.5 5.6 10.5 15.9 14.0 16.6 17.0 5.6	41.4 41.7 29.6 15.9 31.3 31.2 38.5 20.8 23.4 4.5 11.8 22.5 18.8 19.4 27.6 10.5	44.0 29.4 31.8 13.6 22.0 18.3 34.3 19.0 15.5 1.4 3.9 8.3 12.6 15.2 8.1 5.2	40.2 32.3 29.9 14.1 22.9 21.3 28.6 17.2 15.3 4.6 8.5 14.6 12.6 15.0 13.7 5.8
	NSW 1,365.6 820.5 1,794.1 1,459.0 1,268.9 646.9 1,045.2 912.6 1,168.9 727.2 566.7 206.8 356.2 617.4 551.7 632.6 545.2 223.3 1,118.3 4,243.8 32.2 19.3 42.3	NSW Vic. 1,365.6 1,000.4 820.5 664.3 1,794.1 1,401.3 1,459.0 942.0 1,268.9 987.8 646.9 397.5 1,045.2 738.2 912.6 743.7 1,168.9 1,028.1 727.2 663.2 566.7 597.6 206.8 170.5 3551.7 408.6 632.6 541.4 545.2 518.7 223.3 166.4 1,118.3 802.0 4,243.8 3,230.1 32.2 31.0 19.3 20.6 42.3 43.4	NSW Vic. Qld 1,365.6 1,000.4 779.3 820.5 664.3 448.0 1,794.1 1,401.3 775.1 1,459.0 942.0 766.3 1,268.9 987.8 656.4 646.9 397.5 318.2 1,045.2 738.2 457.2 912.6 743.7 450.0 1,168.9 1,028.1 551.5 727.2 663.2 318.7 566.7 597.6 343.7 206.8 170.5 108.1 356.2 319.0 173.7 617.4 577.3 305.0 551.7 408.6 315.8 632.6 541.4 325.1 545.2 518.7 327.0 223.3 166.4 137.2 1,118.3 802.0 546.1 4,243.8 3,230.1 2,102.9 32.2 31.0 37.1 19.3 20.6 21.3 <	NSW Vic. Qld SA 1,365.6 1,000.4 779.3 338.0 820.5 664.3 448.0 184.4 1,794.1 1,401.3 775.1 385.5 1,459.0 942.0 766.3 316.5 1,268.9 987.8 656.4 313.1 646.9 397.5 318.2 146.6 1,045.2 738.2 457.2 231.4 912.6 743.7 450.0 199.1 1,168.9 1,028.1 551.5 312.9 727.2 663.2 318.7 165.8 566.7 597.6 343.7 148.2 206.8 170.5 108.1 28.8 356.2 319.0 173.7 82.7 617.4 577.3 305.0 127.1 51.7 408.6 315.8 96.6 632.6 541.4 325.1 142.8 545.2 518.7 327.0 114.2 223.3 166.4 <td>$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$</td> <td>$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$</td> <td>$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$</td> <td>$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$</td>	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $

(a) Aged 18 years or more. Totals do not equal the sum of environmental problems in each column because people may report more than one problem.

Source: Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices (4602.0).

Environmental concern	NSW	Vic	014	54		Tas	NT	ACT	Aust
registered tast 12 months	14244	<i>vi</i> c	Qia	54	WA	1 as.	NI	ACI	Ausi.
				_	- '000				
Yes	432.7	293.3	199.1	96.3	145.3	36.7	10.6	21.1	1,235.0
No	2,685.4	2,121.9	1,350.4	730.9	754.9	195.7	63.8	149.7	8,052.6
Don't know	7.4	13.0	7.3	1.5	3.4	0.4	0.2	1.2	34.5
No concerns	1,118.3	802.0	546.1	246.9	285.3	96.4	19.1	34.0	3,148.0
Total persons(a)	4,243.8	3,230.1	2,102.9	1,075.6	1,188.9	329.1	93.6	206.0	12,470.1
				—	per cent				
Yes	10.2	9.1	9.5	9.0	12.2	11.1	11.3	10.2	9.9
No	63.3	65.7	64.2	68.0	63.5	59.4	68.1	72.7	64.6
Don't know	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.3
No concerns	26.4	24.8	26.0	23.0	24.0	29.3	20.4	16.5	25.2

14.6 ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN REGISTERED IN LAST 12 MONTHS, MAY 1992

(a) Aged 18 years or more.

Source: Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices (4602.0).

People's views on the issue of the priority between environmental protection and economic growth, provide an indicator of the public's attitude to the environment generally. Table 14.7 shows that in May 1992, a majority of people (70%) rated them as being of equal importance. As the questions were necessarily cast in somewhat simplified terms, the responses can only be regarded as indicative of general attitudes rather than of fully formulated views.

14.7 ATTITUDE TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH, MAY 1992

Priority	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
					- 000 -	<u> </u>			
is more important than economic growth	825.5	564.2	383.4	224.9	229.3	44.2	18.2	50.3	2,339.9
Environment protection and economic growth are equally important	2,921.0	2,251.8	1,493.6	758.8	872.2	252.9	67.3	144.1	8,761.7
Environment protection is less important than economic growth	284.9	246.4	143.9	49.3	58.3	21.5	5.5	7.4	817.1
Cannot decide/no opinion	212.4	167.8	82.0	42.6	29.1	10.6	2.7	4.2	551.4
Total persons(a)	4,243.8	3,230.1	2,102.9	1,075.6	1,188.9	329.1	93.6	206.0	12,470.1

For footnotes see end of table.

Priority	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
					per cent -	_			
Environment protection is more important than economic growth	19.5	17.5	18.2	20.9	19.3	13.4	19.4	24.4	18.8
Environmental protection and economic growth are equally important	68.8	69.7	71.0	70.5	73.4	76.8	71.9	70.0	70.3
Environment protection is less important than economic growth	6.7	7.6	6.8	4.6	4.9	6.5	5.9	3.6	6.6
Cannot decide/no opinion	5.0	5.2	3.9	4.0	2.4	3.2	2.8	2.0	4.4

14.7 ATTITUDE TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH MAY 1992 — continued

(a) Aged 18 years or more.

Source: Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices (4602.0).

RECYCLING BY HOUSEHOLDS

Recycling is one of the main ways of reducing the adverse effects of the disposal of solid waste. In 1989, 61 per cent of councils were involved in recycling schemes. This is achieved through kerb-side collection schemes and drop-off facilities. Individual households play an important role in recycling. An ABS survey in May 1992 found that old clothes and rags were the items most commonly recycled, with three per cent of households having recycled all the surveyed items.

Item recycled	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
					_ 000' _				
Paper	1,053.2	933.6	448.2	363.7	566.5	179.1	16.9	96.0	3,657.3
Glass	935.5	982.6	527.0	466.9	542.0	214.2	9.0	83.3	3,760.7
Cans	721.5	758.0	406.4	428.9	512.5	123.5	11.3	42.6	3,004.8
Plastic	621.6	673.8	423.1	280.3	331.6	141.5	8.8	49.9	2,530.7
Motor oil	144.3	128.4	115.7	66.3	92.9	49.8	4.9	24.0	626.4
Kitchen or food waste	555.9	554.8	413.0	336.9	347.8	223.6	20.4	63.5	2,515.9
Garden waste	775.4	721.1	610.5	401.6	414.8	246.3	29.7	78.6	3,278.0
Old clothing or rags	1,071.9	930.7	773.6	524.0	629.6	287.5	31.9	113.8	4,363.0
No recycling by the									
household	317.6	142.6	235.8	141.1	116.4	90.6	19.5	18.9	1,082.4
Total households	1,832.9	1,391.8	1,243.4	844.3	928.8	466.2	62.3	151.8	6,921.4

14.8 ITEMS RECYCLED BY HOUSEHOLDS(a), MAY 1992

For footnotes see end of table.

Item recycled	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
					per cent .				
Paper	57.5	67.1	36.0	43.1	61.0	38.4	27.1	63.3	52.8
Glass	51.0	70.6	42.4	55.3	58.4	46.0	14.5	54.9	54.3
Cans	39.4	54.5	32.7	50.8	55.2	26.5	18.2	28.1	43.4
Plastic	33.9	48.4	34.0	33.2	35.7	30.4	14.2	32.9	36.6
Motor oil	7.9	9.2	9.3	7.9	10.0	10.7	7.9	15.8	9.0
Kitchen or food waste	30.3	39.9	33.2	39.9	37.4	48.0	32.7	41.9	36.3
Garden waste	42.3	51.8	49.1	47.6	44.7	52.8	47.7	51.8	47.4
Old clothing or rags	58.5	66.9	62.2	62.1	67.8	61.7	51.2	75.0	63.0
No recycling by									
the household	17.3	10.2	19.0	16.7	12.5	19.4	31.3	12.5	15.6

14.8 ITEMS RECYCLED BY HOUSEHOLDS(a), MAY 1992 - continued

(a) Totals do not equal the sum of items in each column because more than one item may be recycled. Source: Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices (4602.0).

The principal recycling method was use of central collection points, with household

collection being the next most frequently used method.

Recycling method	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
					- '000				
Central collection point	916.1	666.8	642.9	546.5	556.1	236.2	23.1	108.6	3,696.4
Collection from house	958.7	991.4	370.3	279.7	456.4	82.7	7.7	55.9	3,202.8
Special areas at dump	134.4	133.3	133.6	59.7	84.8	102.8	4.4	55.2	708.3
Compost or mulch	720.1	681.1	590.5	385.9	392.1	250.1	27.6	76.9	3,124.3
Reuse within household	636.7	608.2	559.5	382.2	448.6	228.6	23.3	71.1	2,958.1
Other	46.9	28.4	40.8	24.5	41.3	10.9	2.0	6.2	201.0
No recycling by									
the household	317.6	142.6	235.8	141.1	116.4	90.6	19.5	18.9	1,082.4
Total households	1,832.9	1,391.8	1,243.4	844.3	928.8	466.2	62.3	151.8	6,921.4
				— p	er cent —				
Central collection point	50.0	47.9	51.7	64.7	59.9	50.7	37.2	71.6	53.4
Collection from house	52.3	71.2	29.8	33.1	49.1	17.7	12.4	36.8	46.3
Special areas at dump	7.3	9.6	10.7	7.1	9.1	22.1	7.0	36.4	10.2
Compost or mulch	39.3	48.9	47.5	45.7	42.2	53.7	44.3	50.7	45.1
Reuse within household	34.7	43.7	45.0	45.3	48.3	49.0	37.4	46.8	42.7
Other	2.6	2.0	3.3	2.9	4.4	2.3	3.1	4.1	2.9
No recycling by the									
household	17.3	10.2	19.0	16.7	12.5	19.4	31.3	12.5	15.6

14.9 RECYCLING METHODS USED BY HOUSEHOLDS(a), MAY 1992

(a) Totals do not equal the sum of methods in each column because more than one method may be used. Source: Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices (4602.0).

About 16 per cent of households did not recycle any of the surveyed items. The main reasons given were that they did not have sufficient recyclable materials or that there were no services or facilities available.



14.10 REASONS HOUSEHOLDS DO NOT RECYCLE, MAY 1992

Source: Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices (4602.0).

The Commonwealth has adopted volume targets for specific materials as part of the

National Kerbside Recycling Strategy. The targets, to be achieved by 1995, are:

Paper packaging	71% of input used to produce pay	er packaging	from secondary	fibre
Newsprint	······································	1 0 0	,,	40%
Glass				45%
Aluminium cans				65%
Steel cans		25% by	1996 (40% by 2	2000)
Plastic containers		-		25%
Paperboard containers for liquids				20%
	1: C			

Source: National Waste Minimisation and Recycling Strategy, CEPA, 1992.

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On Clean Up Australia Day, 6 March 1994, half a million Australians collected an estimated 20,000 tonnes of rubbish from roadsides, rivers, parklands, beaches and waterways around the country. The items they collected and removed ranged from paper litter to several thousand car bodies.

It all started from an idea by Ian Kiernan, 1994 Australian of the Year, to make a better environment by encouraging people everywhere to clean up their local area. The idea came to him while he was sailing single-handed around the world in 1986 and was confronted by seas polluted by the cast-offs of modern life — nappies, plastic bottles and bags, cans, garbage and refuse of every description.

On his return to Australia he organised Clean Up Sydney Harbour in 1989, when 40,000 volunteers removed 5,000 tonnes of waste from the harbour and its foreshores. Its success led to an expansion of the campaign

Clean up Australia

to a Clean Up Australia Day across the country in each year since 1990.

The half a million people who turned out in 1994 covered over 8,000 sites across 698 cities and towns, where Clean Up Australia committees now operate.

The campaign has spread beyond Australia. In 1993, an estimated 30 million people in 80 countries took part in the first Clean Up the World, the second of which is planned for September 1994.

Ian Kieman is now chairman of Clean Up the World as well as Chairman of Clean Up Australia. Within five years many nations have been moved to take part in an event which gives everyone the opportunity to take responsibility for their environment and bring about environmental change.

COSTS OF ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

Businesses, governments and households spend some of their resources on protection of the environment. For 1990–91 and 1991–92 the ABS collected some information about expenditure by businesses in the mining and manufacturing sectors on pollution abatement and control. The expenditures included are for activities aimed at the prevention, reduction and elimination of pollution arising from production processes. Table 14.11 provides a summary of some of the information obtained.

	Unit	Metallic m	inerals, coal, oil and gas	Selected manufacturing industries	
Item		1990–91	1991–92	 1990–91(a)	1991-92
Capital expenditure					
Change-in-production processes	\$m	74.0	7.5	n.a.	n.a.
End-of-line-techniques	\$m	96.0	50.3	n.a.	n.a.
Total	\$m	170.0	57.9	248.0	505.5
Current expenditure					
Waste management	\$m	68.9	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other operational and maintenance costs	\$m	23.0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Total	\$m	91.8	86.6	232.5	523.6
Total expenditure	\$m	261.8	144.5	480.5	1,029.1

14.11 EXPENDITURE BY SOME MINING AND MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES ON ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

For footnotes see end of table.

		Metallic m	inerals, coal, oil and gas	Selected manufacturing industries	
Item	Unit 1990–91		1991–92	1990–91(a)	1991-92
Expenditure on environment protection compared to total expenditure					
Capital expenditure on environment	\$m	170.0	57.9	248.0	505.5
Total capital expenditure	\$ m	4,018.0	3,452.2	n.a.	n.a.
Percentage spent on environment	%	4.2	1.7	n.a.	n.a.
Current expenditure on environment	\$m	91.8	86.6	232.5	523.6
Total current expenditure	\$m	8,906.6	9,206.0	n.a.	n.a.
Percentage spent on environment	%	1.0	0.9	n.a.	n.a.
Cost of environmental licences	\$m	5.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Number of establishments operating					
under licences	no.	162	n.a.	623	n.a.
Research expenses	\$m	5.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

14.11 EXPENDITURE BY SOME MINING AND MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES ON ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION -- continued

(a) The industry scope was limited in this year, therefore comparisons with 1991-92 are not possible.

Source: Manufacturing Industry, Australia (8221.0), Mining Industry, Australia (8402.0) and Cost of Environment Protection, Australia – Selected Industries, 1990–91 (4603.0).

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

UN Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 1992

The largest conference to date on environment and development was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 1–12 June 1992. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) brought together 178 governments, thousands of delegates and members of non-government organisations and journalists.

Four documents were agreed by many governments at the sessions in Brazil. These were the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and two conventions, one on climate change and one on biodiversity. A Declaration of Forest Principles was also agreed upon. Although not strictly binding under international law, Agenda 21 is an action plan to implement the principles found in the Rio Declaration. It is a substantial document containing about 40 chapters on a wide range of issues, including:

- protection of the atmosphere by combating climate change, depletion of the ozone layer and transboundary air pollution;
- protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources;

- protection of the oceans and coastal areas;
- protection and management of land resources by combating deforestation, desertification and drought;
- conservation of biological diversity;
- environmentally sound management of biotechnology;
- environmentally sound management of wastes, particularly hazardous wastes and toxic chemicals, as well as prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes;
- improvement of the living and working environment of the poor in urban slums and rural areas; and
- protection of human health conditions and improvement of the quality of life.

Subsequent to the UNCED, the United Nations has created the Commission on Sustainable Development to progress various international discussions. Member countries have a responsibility to report annually on aspects of their implementation of Agenda 21. Australia presented its first report in December 1993, addressing issues such as transfer of environmentally sound technologies, protecting and promoting human health, promoting sustainable human settlement, and toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes.



International treaties and conventions

Some of the international treaties and conventions relating to the environment to which Australia is a party are:

General environmental

- Antarctic Treaty (signed by Australia 23 June 1961);
- Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (17 December 1975); and
- Convention on the Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific (28 March 1990).

Coastal/marine resources

- International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (10 November 1948);
- UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (10 December 1982); and
- Convention for the Prohibition of Fishing with Long Driftnets in the South Pacific (24 November 1989).

Toxic and hazardous wastes

- South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (11 December 1986);
- Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident (23 October 1987);

- Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons Testing in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water (12 November 1963);
- International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (14 January 1988);
- International Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Dumping Convention) (20 September 1985); and
- Basel Convention on the Transborder Movement of Hazardous Waste (early 1992).

Biological diversity

- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (12 December 1975);
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (27 October 1976);
- International Plant Protection Convention (27 August 1952); and
- Convention on Biological Diversity (18 June 1993).

Air quality

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- Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (17 August 1989); and
- Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (22 September 1990).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ABS Publications

Australia's Environment: Issues and Facts (4140.0) Community Participation in Energy Conservation, Victoria (4120.2) Cost of Environment Protection, Australia – Selected Industries, 1990–91 (4603.0) Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices (4602.0) Manufacturing Industry, Australia (8221.0) Mining Industry, Australia (8402.0)

Other Publications

Draft Australia's National Report to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, December 1993
OECD. Environmental Data Compendium 1993
OECD. Environmental Indicators, 1991
National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development, December 1992

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The ABS has a far wider range of information on Australia than that contained in the *Year Book*. Information is available in the form of regular publications, electronic data services, special tables and from investigations of published and unpublished data.

For further information contact ABS Information Services at one of the addresses listed on the page facing the Introduction to the *Year Book*.