



Environmental Protection Agency/Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service



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Regional trends

[Air Quality \(Human Health\)](#)

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EPA monitors air quality in [south-east Queensland](#) and the regional centres of [Gladstone](#), [Mackay](#), [Townsville](#) and [Mount Isa](#). Factors which influence air pollution in south-east Queensland include increasing population, concentration of motor vehicles and industrial activity, while in Gladstone and Mount Isa, industrial activity is the major cause of air pollution.

Two of the primary indices used to measure air quality are the Air Quality Index – human health and the Air Quality Index – amenity. [[Note](#)]

Air Quality (Human Health)

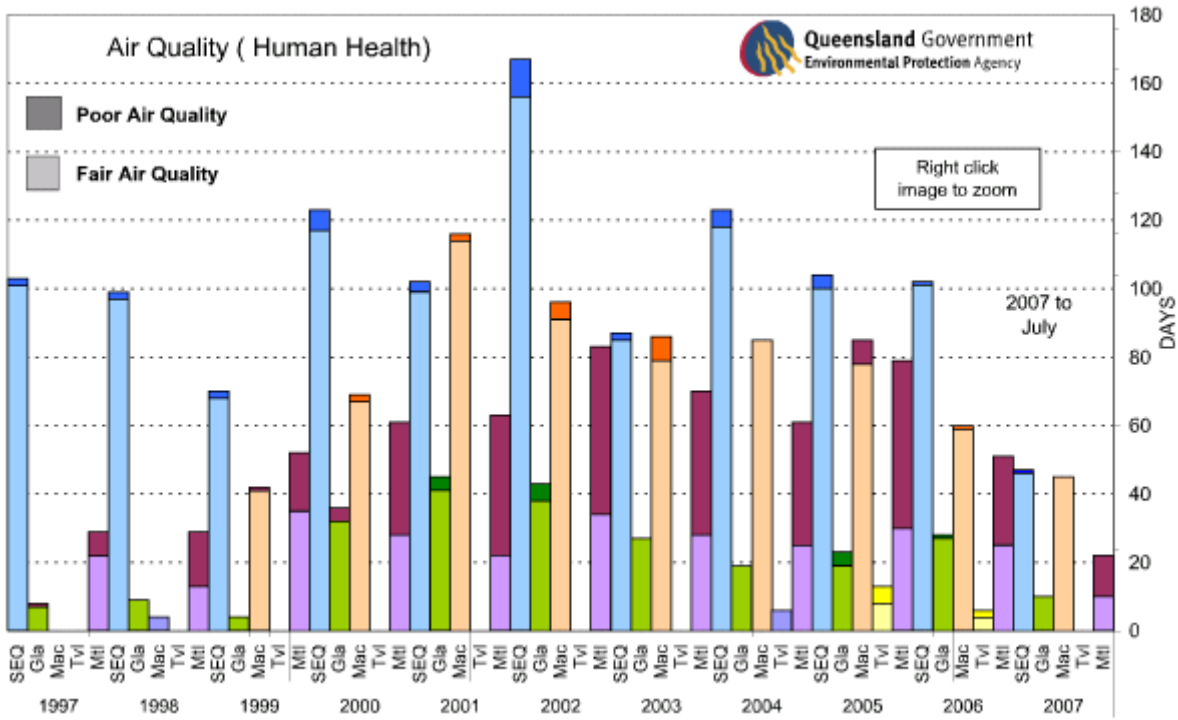
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South-east Queensland, Gladstone, Mackay, Townsville and Mount Isa Air Quality Index (human health) 1997 to 2007

Year	Poor air quality days					Fair air quality days					Good air quality days				
	SEQ	GLA	MAC	TVL	MTI	SEQ	GLA	MAC	TVL	MTI	SEQ	GLA	MAC	TVL	MTI
1997	2	1	-	-	7	101	7	-	-	22	262	357	-	-	336
1998	2	0	0	-	16	97	9	4	-	13	266	356	149	-	336
1999	2	0	1	-	17	68	4	41	-	35	295	361	323	-	313
2000	6	4	2	-	33	117	32	67	-	28	243	330	297	-	305
2001	3	4	2	-	41	99	41	114	-	22	263	320	249	-	302
2002	11	5	5	-	49	156	38	91	-	34	198	322	269	-	282
2003	2	0	7	-	42	85	27	79	-	28	278	338	279	-	295
2004	5	0	0	0	36	118	19	85	6	25	243	347	281	214	305
2005	4	4	7	5	49	100	19	78	8	30	261	342	280	352	286
2006	1	1	1	2	26	101	27	59	4	25	263	337	305	359	314
2007 *	1	0	0	0	12	46	10	45	0	10	165	202	167	212	190

* Current to July 2007

Mackay from July 1998 Townsville from May 2004



NOTES:

Poor Number of days when at least one NEPM monitoring station did not meet one or more NEPM air quality standards, reflecting high pollution levels.

Fair Number of days when all NEPM monitoring stations were within the NEPM standards but at least one station reached at least half the standard for one or more pollutants.

Good Number of days when all NEPM monitoring stations were below half the NEPM air quality standards, reflecting good air quality.

Standards: 0.10 ppm [ozone](#) (1-hour average)
 0.12 ppm [nitrogen dioxide](#) (1-hour average)
 0.20 ppm [sulfur dioxide](#) (1-hour average)
 9.0 ppm [carbon monoxide](#) (8-hour average)
 50 µg/m³ [PM₁₀](#) (24-hour average)

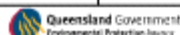
Air Quality (Amenity)

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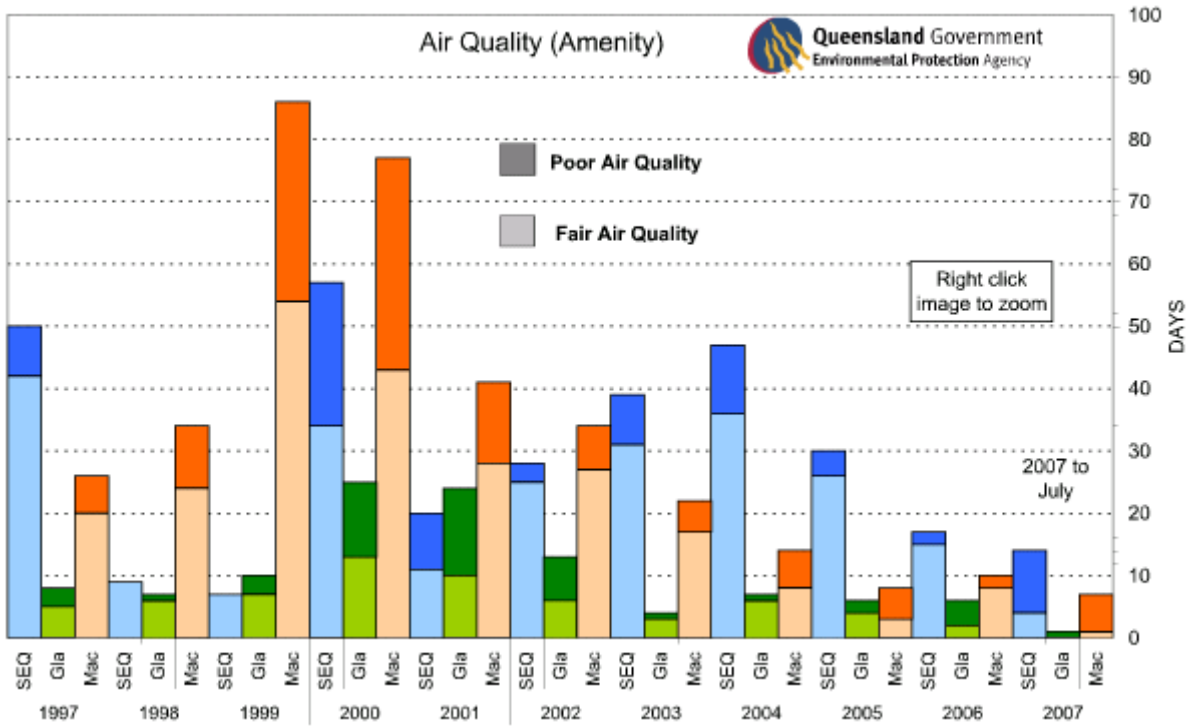
South-east Queensland, Gladstone and Mackay Air Quality Index (amenity) 1997 to 2007.

Year	Poor air quality days			Fair air quality days			Good air quality days		
	SEQ	GLA	MAC	SEQ	GLA	MAC	SEQ	GLA	MAC
1997	8	3	6	42	5	20	315	357	127
1998	0	1	10	9	6	24	356	358	331
1999	0	3	32	7	7	54	358	355	279
2000	23	12	34	34	13	43	309	341	289
2001	9	14	13	11	10	28	345	341	324
2002	3	7	7	25	6	27	337	352	331
2003	8	1	5	31	3	17	326	361	343
2004	11	1	6	36	6	8	319	359	352
2005	4	2	5	26	4	3	335	359	357
2006	2	4	2	15	2	8	348	359	355
2007 *	4	0	1	10	1	6	198	211	205

* Current to July 2007



Mackay data from August 1997



NOTES:

- Poor** Number of days when at least one NEPM monitoring station did not meet the EPP (Air) air quality goal, reflecting poor visual amenity.
- Fair** Number of days when all NEPM monitoring stations were within the EPP (Air) goal but at least one station reached at least half the goal.
- Good** Number of days when all NEPM monitoring stations were below half the EPP (Air) goal, reflecting good visual amenity.
- Standard:** Visibility equal to or exceeding 20km (1-hour average)

Note
 Assessment of air quality is performed by comparison of pollutant concentrations against the air quality goals set within the Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 1997 (EPP(Air)) and the air quality standards set within the National Environment Protection Measure for Ambient Air Quality (Air NEPM). These goals and standards generally fall into two broad categories – those developed to protect human health (Air Quality Index – human health) and those based on aesthetic criteria such as visibility loss or odour (Air Quality Index – amenity). The two indices summarise air quality relative to human health protection and visual amenity.

Last updated: 26 July 2007