

**Question on Notice
No. 197
Asked on 21 February 2007**

QUESTION:

MRS MENKENS asked the Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism (Ms Nelson-Carr)—

What is her department's position in regard to outboard motor and other small engine emissions?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Burdekin for her question.

In 2003, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Brisbane City Council jointly funded a report entitled "Air Emissions Inventory South-east Queensland Region". This report showed that emissions from lawn mowers and outboard motors represented approximately two and three percent respectively of total annual air emissions in the region.

Although this is a relatively small percentage of annual emissions, it mostly takes place on week-ends, and therefore comprises a larger proportion of week-end emissions. However, as transport and industrial emissions are lower on week-ends, the contribution of emissions from small engines and outboard motors is unlikely to result in total week-end emissions being greater than total week day emissions. This is supported by Environmental Protection Agency monitoring data, which shows that ambient concentrations of pollutants are generally no higher on week-ends.

Where emission inventories have been carried out for other Australian cities, similar results have been obtained. Nevertheless, because there is no regulation of emissions from small engines in Australia, they could become a more significant source of emissions in the future.

The Environment Protection and Heritage Council, on which I am the Queensland representative, has therefore established a working group to review international emissions regulations and performance of lawn mowers and outboard motors, and to develop options for managing emissions in Australia. The Environmental Protection Agency is actively supporting this work, and I look forward to the completion of an options paper later this year.