

# GILG Update

This week has been a rough week for the Gladstone region with job losses significantly impacting many in our community. These are tough economic times and tough decisions have had to be made. Whilst these difficult decisions should ultimately strengthen the long term future of industry in Gladstone, there have been unfortunate immediate impacts on our community.

Last week saw the release of updated National Pollution Inventory (NPI) data on industry emissions in Australia. As this release contributes to the open disclosure of information about Gladstone Industry's performance, GILG welcomes the opportunity to release this increasingly wide ranging and accurate emissions information. This information can be found at [www.npi.gov.au](http://www.npi.gov.au).

One concern I have heard voiced by community members is that, because this information is provided by Industry, it cannot be trusted. The Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM), formerly Environmental Protection Agency, validate NPI data in a number of ways.

Firstly a high level error check is completed using a mass balance calculation. This approach, which is similar to that which will be used in the upcoming Emissions Training Scheme, adds up all the inputs for a particular process and compares them to the listed outputs of the process. As matter cannot be created or destroyed, if there is a difference between the inputs and the outputs further investigation is completed to understand the source of this difference.

The most rigorous validation of NPI data is completed via detailed benchmarking reports of Gladstone Industry emissions compared to similar facilities in Canada, US and Europe. These in-depth 70 to 80 page reports have been completed for all GILG members and cover over 40 pollutants. For each of the local and international facilities the source of this emissions data, direct measurement or calculation or some other estimation method, is also listed.

Again should this benchmarking examination result in Industry emissions outside of the expected range, DERM then conducts further investigations possibly including the completion of an Environmental Evaluation.

Further information about this process and the benchmarking reports for each of the GILG members is available at [http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/environmental/management/air/clean\\_and\\_healthy\\_air\\_for\\_gladstone/reports/](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/environmental/management/air/clean_and_healthy_air_for_gladstone/reports/) or by searching for "epa benchmarking gladstone".

In the past two weeks the GILG team has also been busy compiling plain English environmental and emissions data, including NPI data, and Q&As ready for publication on our website, which will soon be released.

I look forward to talking to you, cheers, Kurt.

## EYE ON INDUSTRY

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