1. The *Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 1997* and the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 1997* are the main legislative instruments for managing air and acoustic quality in Queensland. The Policies are subordinate legislation under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994.*
2. The proposed *Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008* and the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2008* identify the values of the air and acoustic environment that are important for human health and amenity and ecosystem health.
3. The major changes from the 1997 to the 2008 *Environmental Protection Policies* include:
* updating environmental values, objectives and indicators that Queensland aims to achieve over the next 10 years;
* providing a management hierarchy for the management of air and noise emissions;
* excluding the operation of specific transport infrastructure from the application of the acoustic quality objectives; and
* providing improved guidance to and focus for regulatory decision-making.
1. A number of minor amendments are also being made to the *Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 1997* to remove provisions that have been transferred to the new *Environmental Protection Regulation 2008* and to the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, and enable the Regulation and amendments to the Act to commence on 1 January 2009.
2. Cabinet approved that the *Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008* and the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2008* be recommended to the Governor in Council for approval.
3. Cabinet noted that the *Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008* and the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2008* will be laid before Legislative Assembly within 14 sitting days after publication in the Government Gazette.
4. Cabinet noted that consequential amendments will be made to the *Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 1997*.
5. *Attachments*
* [*Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008*](Attachments/08SL441%20air.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes for *Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008*](Attachments/08SL441%20air%20Exnotes.pdf)
* [*Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2008*](Attachments/08SL442%20noise.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes for *Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2008*](Attachments/08SL442%20noise%20Exnotes.pdf)
* [*Environmental Protection (Water) Amendment Policy (No. 1) 2008*](Attachments/08SL443%20Water.pdf)