

# How emissions affect the air we breathe

## Activity 4 - An introduction to different pollutants

Motor vehicles using petrol or diesel can release harmful chemicals or toxins into the atmosphere. This contributes to air pollution and smog is one visible example.

**Brainstorm the things in your life that you think emit harmful chemicals or toxins in the atmosphere.**



**Emissions  
in your life**

NO<sub>x</sub> (oxides of nitrogen) is one of the main emissions contributing to the increase of air pollution. Another pollutant that you may have heard of before is CO<sub>2</sub> or carbon dioxide.

**NO<sub>x</sub>** = Oxides of Nitrogen

**CO<sub>2</sub>** = Carbon Dioxide

## RAC has done some research behind emissions and has come up with some extraordinary facts!

- » Australia's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from road transport are nearly four times the global average.
- » 19% of WA's total greenhouse gas emissions are from transport.
- » In Australia, it is estimated motor vehicles could contribute up to 70% of total NO<sub>x</sub> emissions.
- » Diesel vehicles release a higher level of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions. 1 in 4 vehicles today are powered by diesel.
- » Uptake of low and zero emission vehicles like electric vehicles (EVs) has been slow in Australia - under 1% of purchased small vehicles are EVs.

## There are some words you may not be used to seeing

Use a highlighter to locate them. After listing them here, come up with your own definition and use a dictionary to find out the meaning.

Key word	My definition	Dictionary definition
Atmosphere		
Toxins		
Pollutant		
Greenhouse gas		
Diesel		

## Create an advert

Imagine trying to create an advertisement to educate people to use cleaner and greener ways of travelling. Include one of RAC's facts from the first page in your advertisement.

### Take this lesson further!

Use the key words to create word cloud. Add in any other vocabulary you have learnt so far. Use a word cloud generator recommended by your teacher or guardian.



rac.com.au