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Air Quality in New South Wales, Australia

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Message from the Guest Editors

This special edition on Air Quality in New South Wales presents the findings of new air quality research in Australia undertaken by (or in association with) the Clean Air and Urban Landscapes hub (see https://www.nespurban.edu.au/).

Air quality in Sydney, like most Australian cities, is generally quite good, with typical concentrations of key pollutants at much lower levels than experienced in many other parts of the world. Nevertheless, Australian cities experience occasional exceedences in ozone and PM2.5, as well as extreme pollution events, often as a result of bushfires or dust storms. Even in the absence of extreme events, natural emissions play a significant role in influencing the Australian urban air-sheds, due to the remoteness from large regional anthropogenic sources. By studying air quality in regions such as New South Wales, we can gain a greater understanding of the underlying atmospheric chemistry in cleaner atmospheric environments. These conditions may be representative of future air quality scenarios for parts of the Northern Hemisphere, as legislation and cleaner technologies reduce man-made air pollution in developed cities.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Continued developments in instrumentation and modeling have driven atmospheric science to become increasingly more complex with a deeper understanding of concepts, mechanisms, and interactions. This is the field that innovation built and it has led to a better appreciation for the complexity with atmosphere. Human life is intertwined in this complexity as we strive to better understand our atmosphere. Climate change is constantly stretching the limits of our thinking and forcing new ideas and concepts to be played out. Welcome to the Anthropocene!

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