



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

# MELBOURNE RESEARCH

## Establishment and Exploration of a National Air Quality Database for Australia

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# Air Quality in Australia



ntepa Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority

Government of Western Australia Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Queensland Government

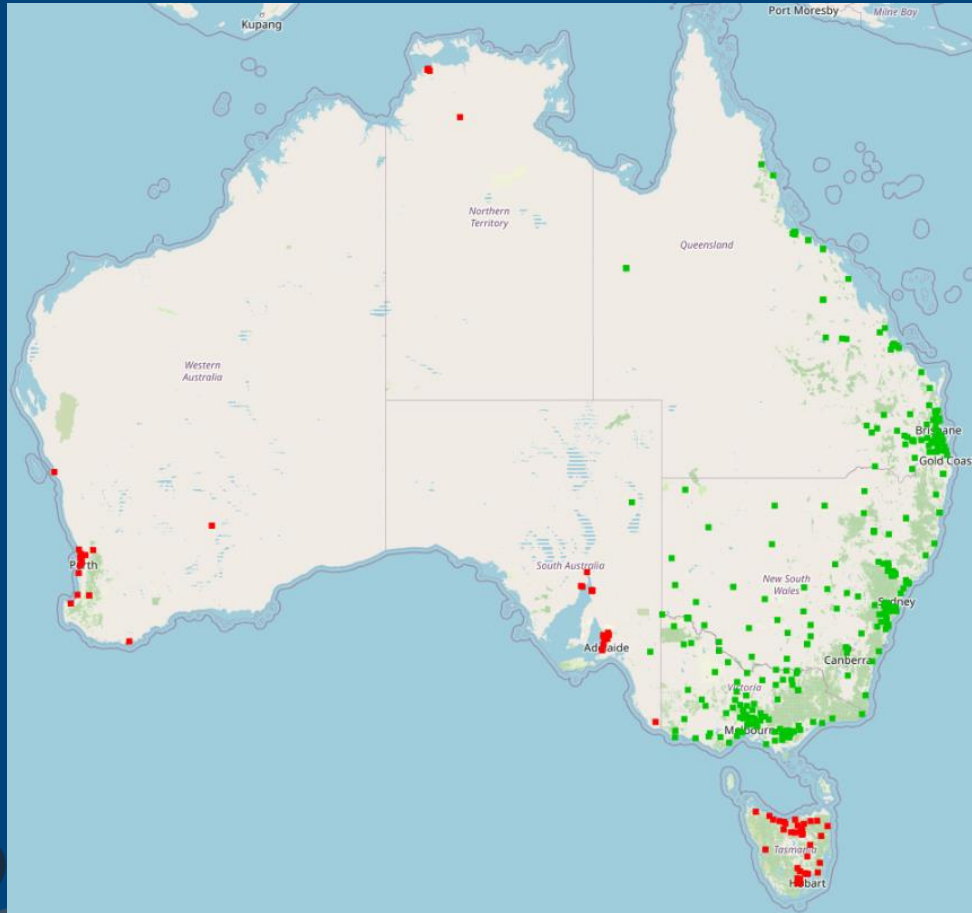
NSW GOVERNMENT

EPA South Australia



# AURIN High Impact Project

- Establish National Air Quality Database (NAQD)
  - Programmatically access air quality data from official agencies (with API)
    - No web scraping



# NAQD Data Diversity

| naqd_observation | observation_description              | units                    | units_description               | nsw | vic | qld | act |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| arsenic          | Arsenic                              | $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ | micrograms per cubic metre      |     |     | Y   |     |
| benzene          | Benzene                              | ppb                      | parts per billion               |     |     | Y   |     |
| cadmium          | Cadmium                              | $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ | micrograms per cubic metre      |     |     | Y   |     |
| carbon_m         | Carbon Monoxide                      | ppm                      | parts per million               | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   |
| copper           | Copper                               | $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ | micrograms per cubic metre      |     |     | Y   |     |
| formaldehv       | Formaldehyde                         | ppb                      | parts per billion               |     |     | Y   |     |
| humidity         | Humidity                             | %                        | percent                         | Y   |     | Y   |     |
| hydrogen_s       | Hydrogen Sulphide (30min)            | ppb                      | parts per billion               |     |     | Y   |     |
| lead             | Lead                                 | $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ | micrograms per cubic metre      |     |     | Y   |     |
| neph             | Nephelometer                         | $10^{-4}\text{m}^{-1}$   | 10 to the power of -4 per metre | Y   |     |     |     |
| ammonia          | Ammonia                              | ppb                      | parts per billion               | Y   |     |     |     |
| nitric_o         | Nitric Oxide                         | ppb                      | parts per billion               | Y   |     |     |     |
| nitrogen_d       | Nitrogen Dioxide                     | ppb                      | parts per billion               | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   |
| nickel           | Nickel                               | $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ | micrograms per cubic metre      |     |     | Y   |     |
| ozone            | Ozone                                | ppb                      | parts per billion               | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   |
| pm10             | Particle PM10                        | $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ | micrograms per cubic metre      | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   |
| pm2p5            | Particle PM2.5                       | $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ | micrograms per cubic metre      | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   |
| rainfall         | Rainfall                             | $\text{mm}/\text{m}^2$   | millimetres per square metre    | Y   |     | Y   |     |
| sd1              | Standard Deviation of Wind Direction | °                        | degrees (sigma theta)           | Y   |     |     |     |
| sulphur_d        | Sulphur Dioxide                      | ppb                      | parts per billion               | Y   | Y   | Y   |     |
| solar            | Solar Radiation                      | $\text{W}/\text{m}^2$    | watts per square metre          | Y   |     | Y   |     |
| temp             | Temperature                          | °C                       | degrees Celsius                 | Y   |     | Y   |     |
| toluene          | Toluene                              | ppb                      | parts per billion               |     |     | Y   |     |
| tspd             | Particles TSP                        | $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ | micrograms per cubic metre      | Y   |     | Y   |     |
| wind_dir         | Wind Direction                       | °                        | degrees                         | Y   |     | Y   |     |
| wind_sp          | Wind Speed                           | m/s                      | meters per second               | Y   |     | Y   |     |
| xylene           | Xylene                               | ppb                      | parts per billion               |     |     | Y   |     |
| zinc             | Zinc                                 | $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ | micrograms per cubic metre      |     |     | Y   |     |

# NAQD Technology Stack

- Technology Stack

- GeoNode

- GeoServer
    - PostGIS



- NeCTAR

- Continuous data collection/processing/storage

- Docker

- Clients to access/clean data from agency APIs

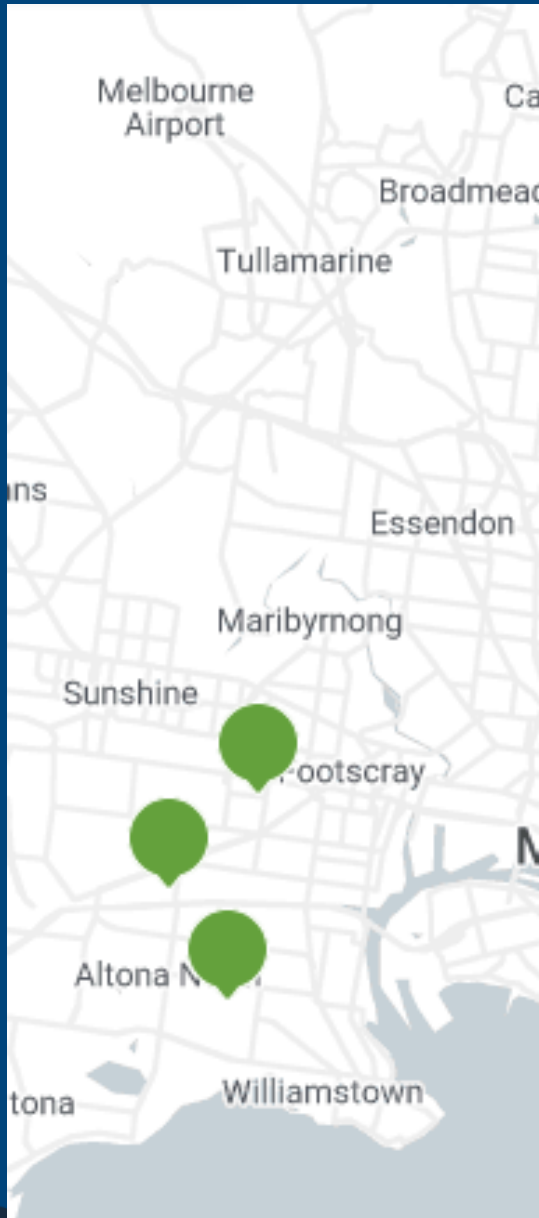


- Jupyter Notebooks

- Deeper analytics via WFS endpoint

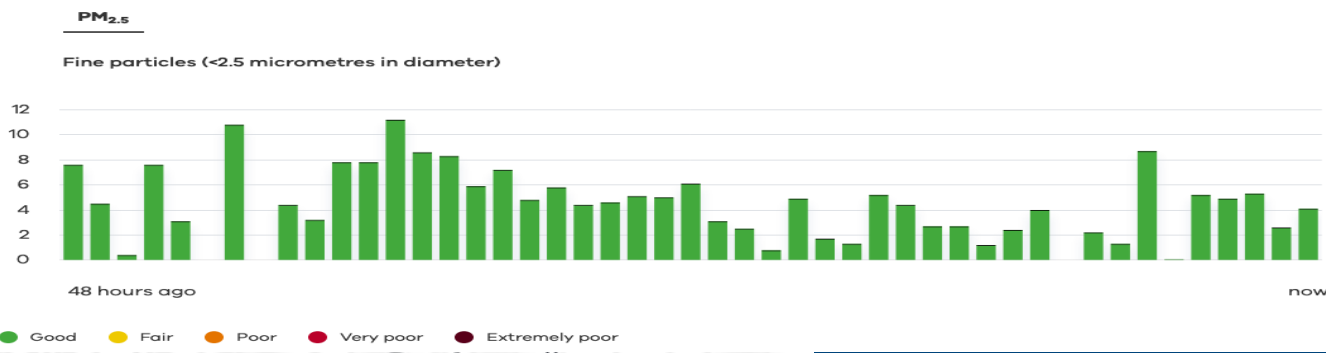


# Air Quality around Melbourne



## Air data from last 48 hours at Box Hill

The graph shows pollutant concentrations over the last 48 hours, calculated at one-hour averages. Using the labels above the graph, it shows each pollutant measured at this station. Find out more about our [air quality categories](#).



### Pollutant concentrations

| PM <sub>2.5</sub><br>24-hr avg<br>µg/m <sup>3</sup> | PM <sub>2.5</sub><br>1-hr avg<br>µg/m <sup>3</sup> | PM <sub>10</sub><br>1-hr avg<br>µg/m <sup>3</sup> | CO<br>1-hr avg<br>ppm | CO<br>8-hr avg<br>ppm | SO <sub>2</sub><br>1-hr avg<br>ppb | NO <sub>2</sub><br>1-hr avg<br>ppb | O <sub>3</sub><br>1-hr avg<br>ppb | Visibility<br>1-hr avg km |
|---|--|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4.4   | 0.53   | 6.4   | 0.07                  | 0.07                  | 0.04                               | 5                                  | 27                                | 70.0                      |

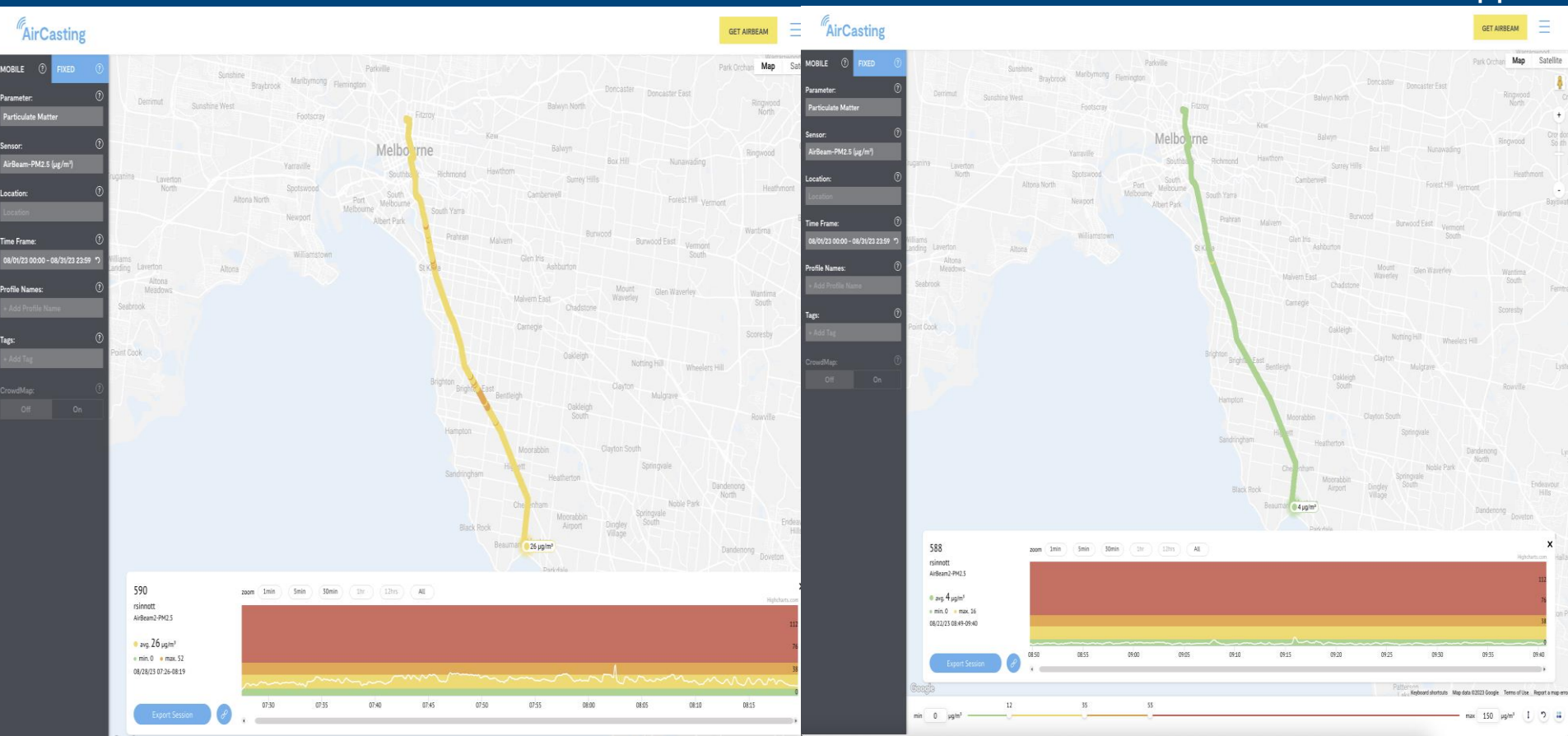


# Mobile Air Pollution Data

- Citizen Science
  - Airbeam Mobile Air Pollution Devices
    - <https://www.habitatmap.org/airbeam>



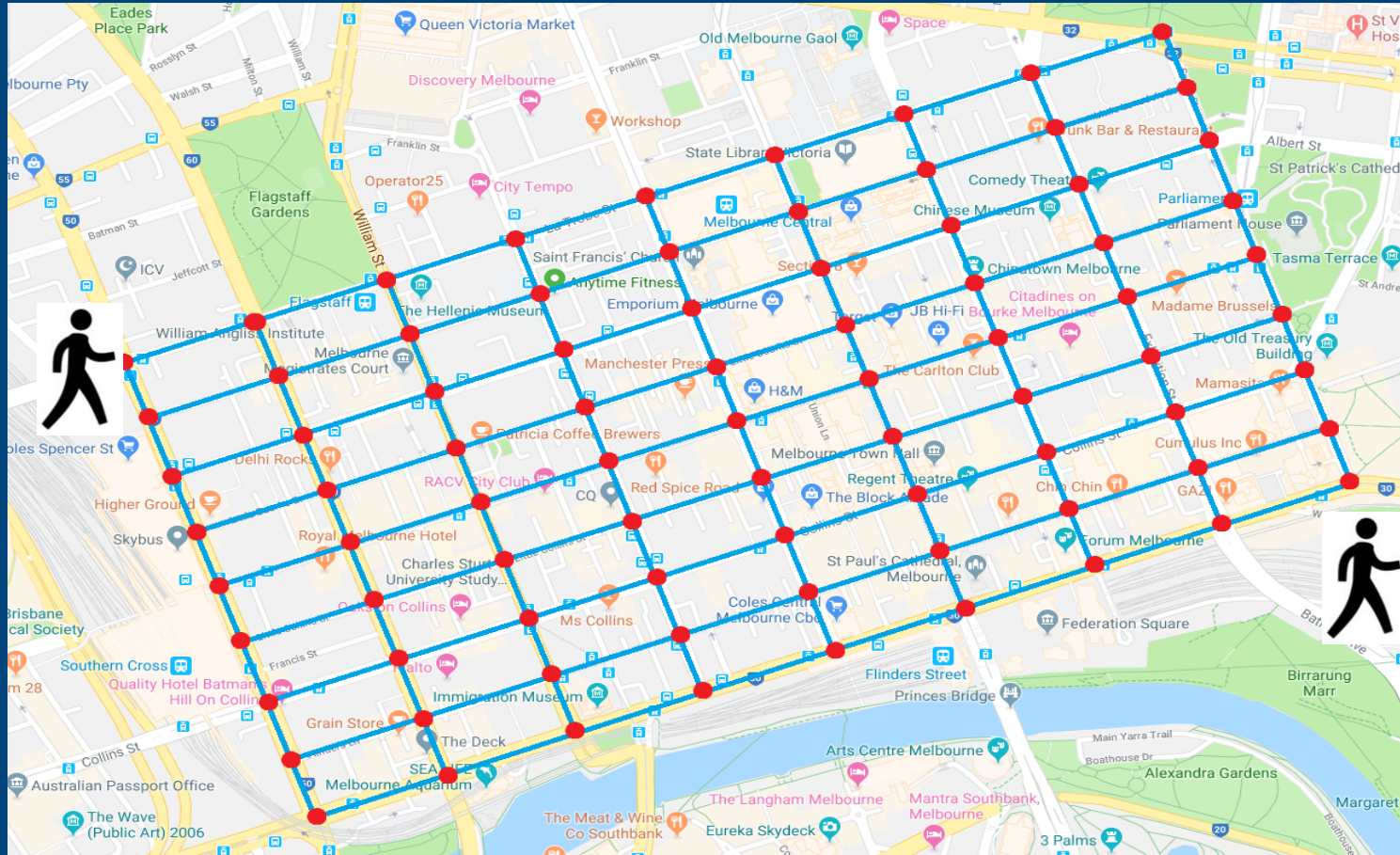
Uses Android app



# Mobile Air Pollution Data

|    | A                            | B                     | C                  | D                          | E           | F                                  |
|----|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 1  | AirBeam2-PM2.5               | AirBeam2:001896108040 | Particulate Matter | micrograms per cubic meter | Flinders St |                                    |
| 2  | Timestamp                    | geo:lat               | geo:long           | Value                      |             |                                    |
| 3  | 2019-01-20T16:49:21.217+1100 | -37.81521493          | 144.9746181        | 2                          |             | -37.8152149321537,144.974618066912 |
| 4  | 2019-01-20T16:49:21.714+1100 | -37.81521493          | 144.9746181        | 2                          |             | -37.8152149321537,144.974618066912 |
| 5  | 2019-01-20T16:49:22.712+1100 | -37.81521457          | 144.9746185        | 2                          |             | -37.815214567,144.974618457        |
| 6  | 2019-01-20T16:49:23.709+1100 | -37.81521593          | 144.9746188        | 2                          |             | -37.815215934,144.974618753        |
| 7  | 2019-01-20T16:49:24.707+1100 | -37.81521713          | 144.9746168        | 2                          |             | -37.815217127,144.974616792        |
| 8  | 2019-01-20T16:49:25.704+1100 | -37.81521974          | 144.9746169        | 2                          |             | -37.815219735,144.974616882        |
| 9  | 2019-01-20T16:49:26.702+1100 | -37.81521974          | 144.9746169        | 2                          |             | -37.815219735,144.974616882        |
| 10 | 2019-01-20T16:49:27.699+1100 | -37.81521974          | 144.9746169        | 1                          |             | -37.815219735,144.974616882        |
| 11 | 2019-01-20T16:49:28.697+1100 | -37.81521974          | 144.9746169        | 1                          |             | -37.815219735,144.974616882        |
| 12 | 2019-01-20T16:49:29.694+1100 | -37.81521974          | 144.9746169        | 1                          |             | -37.815219735,144.974616882        |
| 13 | 2019-01-20T16:49:30.692+1100 | -37.81522603          | 144.9745866        | 1                          |             | -37.815226027,144.974586563        |
| 14 | 2019-01-20T16:49:31.690+1100 | -37.81522791          | 144.9745764        | 1                          |             | -37.815227909,144.974576439        |
| 15 | 2019-01-20T16:49:32.687+1100 | -37.81523108          | 144.9745658        | 1                          |             | -37.815231082,144.974565765        |
| 16 | 2019-01-20T16:49:33.686+1100 | -37.81523443          | 144.974554         | 1                          |             | -37.815234431,144.974553993        |
| 17 | 2019-01-20T16:49:34.683+1100 | -37.81523832          | 144.9745411        | 1                          |             | -37.815238323,144.974541087        |
| 18 | 2019-01-20T16:49:35.681+1100 | -37.81524198          | 144.974527         | 2                          |             | -37.81524198,144.974526983         |
| 19 | 2019-01-20T16:49:36.678+1100 | -37.81524587          | 144.9745111        | 2                          |             | -37.815245872,144.974511128        |
| 20 | 2019-01-20T16:49:37.675+1100 | -37.81524985          | 144.9744963        | 2                          |             | -37.815249848,144.974496301        |
| 21 | 2019-01-20T16:49:38.673+1100 | -37.81525322          | 144.9744819        | 2                          |             | -37.815253224,144.974481893        |
| 22 | 2019-01-20T16:49:39.671+1100 | -37.8152559           | 144.9744661        | 2                          |             | -37.815255901,144.974466111        |
| 23 | 2019-01-20T16:49:40.670+1100 | -37.81525849          | 144.9744495        | 2                          |             | -37.815258494,144.974449521        |
| 24 | 2019-01-20T16:49:41.667+1100 | -37.81526071          | 144.9744329        | 2                          |             | -37.815260706,144.974432933        |
| 25 | 2019-01-20T16:49:42.666+1100 | -37.81526222          | 144.9744178        | 2                          |             | -37.815262219,144.974417788        |
| 26 | 2019-01-20T16:49:43.661+1100 | -37.8152636           | 144.9744028        | 2                          |             | -37.815263602,144.974402765        |
| 27 | 2019-01-20T16:49:44.659+1100 | -37.81526613          | 144.9743869        | 2                          |             | -37.815266134,144.974386919        |
| 28 | 2019-01-20T16:49:45.657+1100 | -37.81527009          | 144.97437          | 2                          |             | -37.815270092,144.974370025        |
| 29 | 2019-01-20T16:49:46.654+1100 | -37.81527415          | 144.9743531        | 2                          |             | -37.81527415,144.974353098         |
| 30 | 2019-01-20T16:49:47.651+1100 | -37.81527693          | 144.9743353        | 2                          |             | -37.815276933,144.974335332        |

# Melbourne CBD Adaptive Routing



- Data Collection – students!!!

# Data Collection



GET AIRBEAM



MOBILE ? FIXED ?

Parameter: ?

Particulate Matter

Sensor: ?

AirBeam-PM2.5 ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )

Location: ?

Location

Time Frame: ?

08/28/22 00:00 - 08/28/23 23:59 ?

Profile Names: ?

+ Add Profile Name

Tags: ?

+ Add Tag

CrowdMap: ?

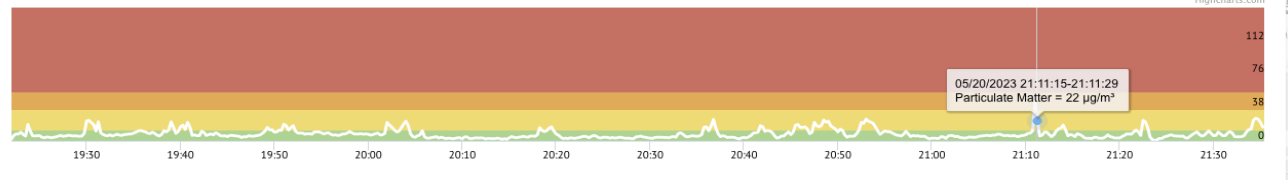
Off On



test1  
siqu10211  
AirBeam2-PM2.5

● avg. 8  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$   
● min. 0 ● max. 79  
05/20/23 19:22-21:35

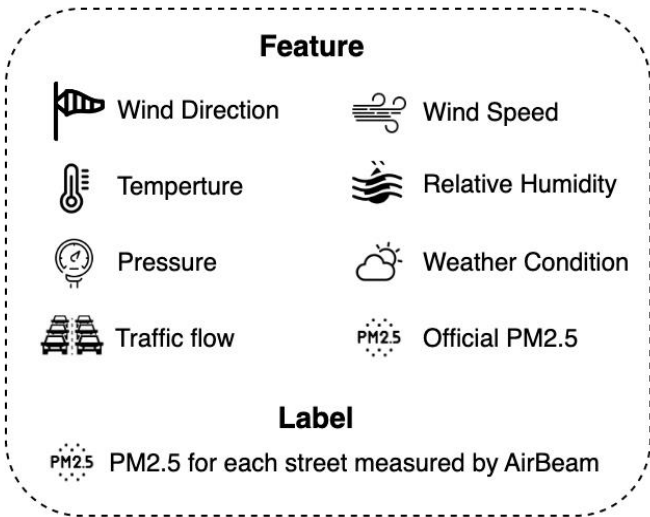
zoom 1min 5min 30min 1hr 12hrs All



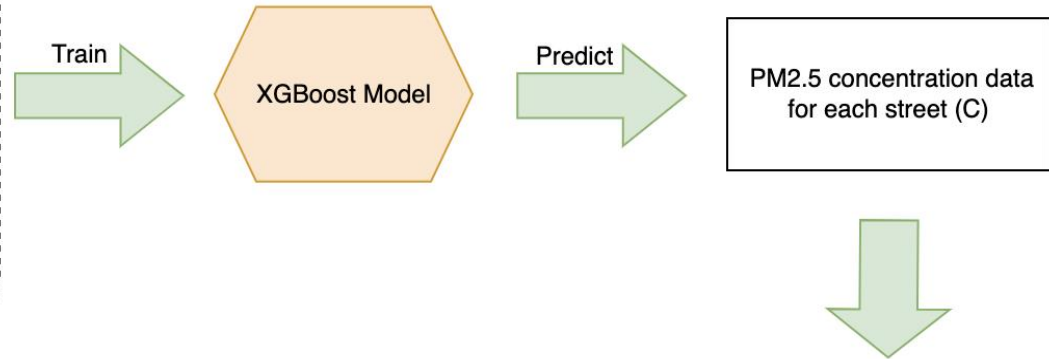
Export Session



# Routing Analytics Workflow

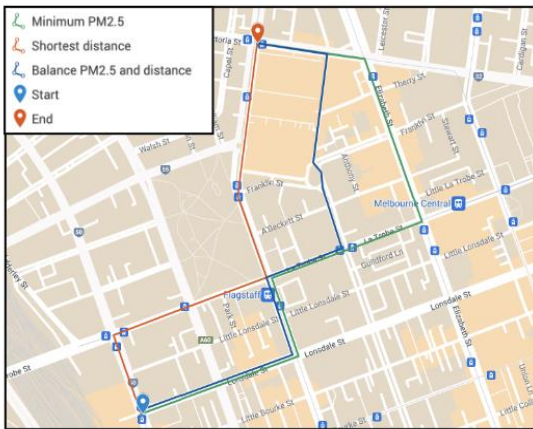


**Gradient boosted trees algorithm** - attempts to accurately predict a target variable by combining estimates of a set of simpler, weaker models.



$$E_i = \frac{D_i}{V_j} \times R_j \times C_i$$

$$Weight_i = w \times \left( \frac{D_i - D_{min}}{D_{max} - D_{min}} \right) + (1 - w) \times \left( \frac{E_i - E_{min}}{E_{max} - E_{min}} \right)$$



Minimum PM2.5 exposure route and alternative option

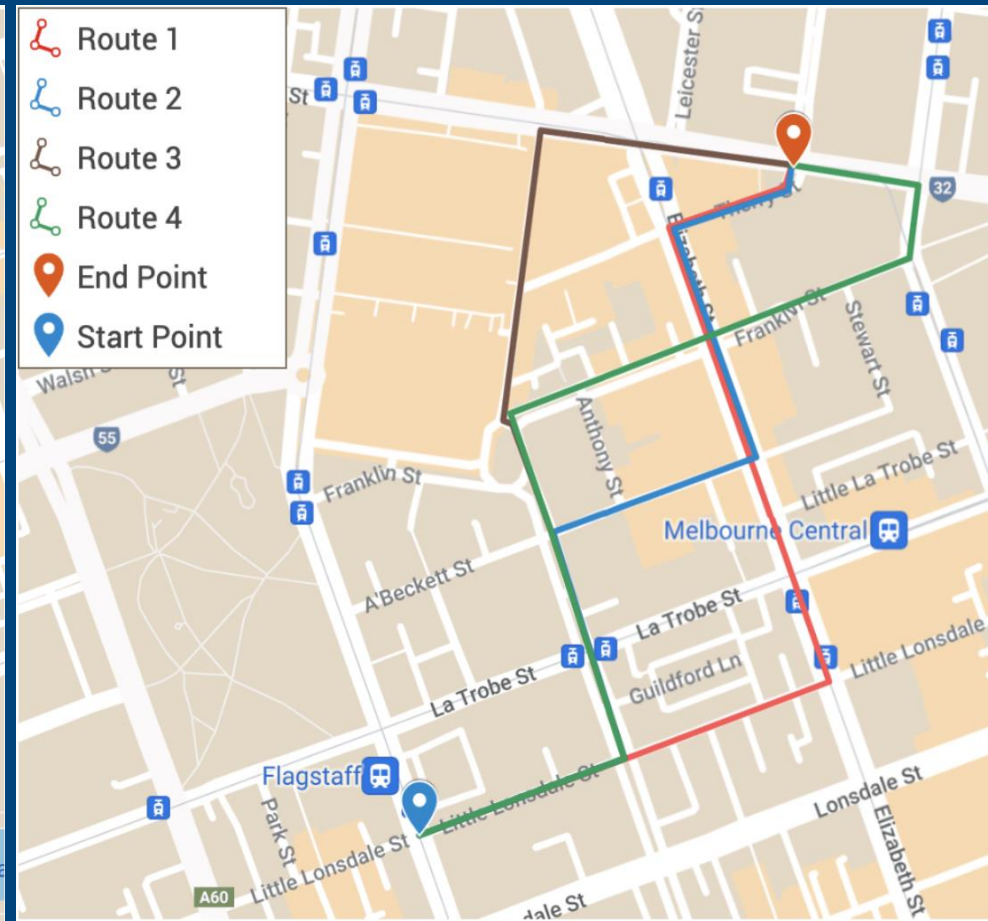
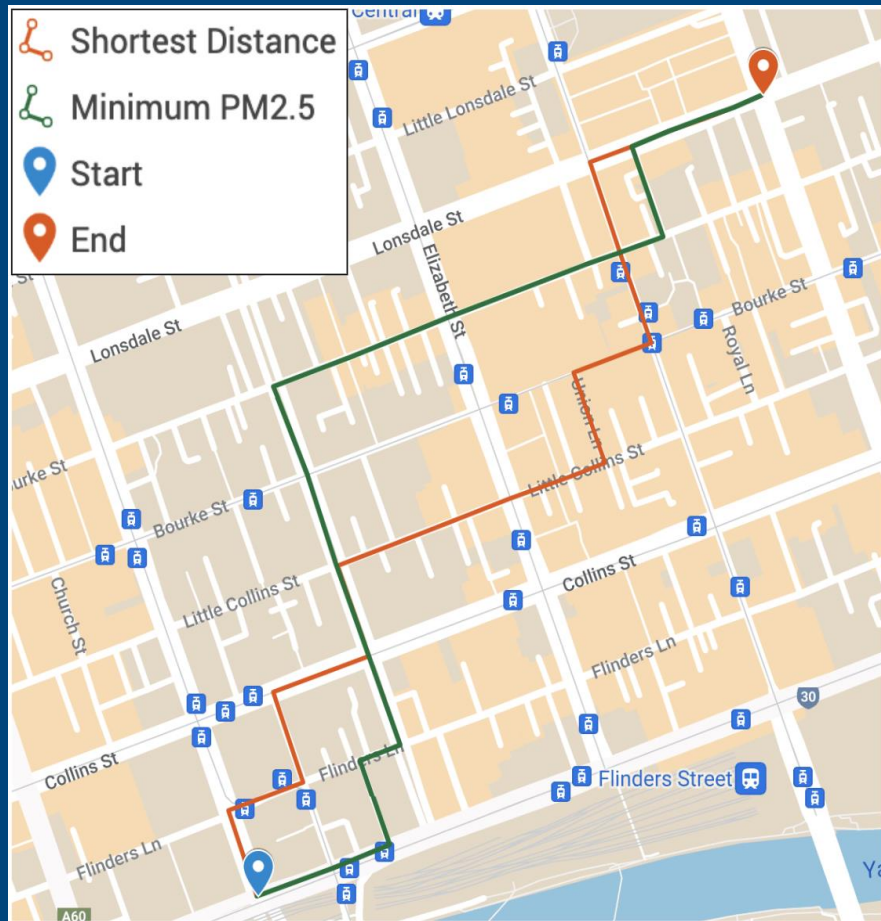


Trade-off PM2.5 exposure does and distance



D = Road distance, V = Walking velocity, R = Respiratory minute volume, C = PM2.5 Concentration

# Example Routing Scenarios



| Route ID | Distance(m) | Distance Change | PM2.5(ug) | PM2.5 Change |
|----------|-------------|-----------------|-----------|--------------|
| Route 1  | 1109.84     | -               | 0.83      | -            |
| Route 2  | 1110.79     | 0.09%           | 0.76      | -8.43%       |
| Route 3  | 1171.29     | 5.54%           | 0.73      | -12.05%      |
| Route 4  | 1219.83     | 9.91%           | 0.67      | -19.28%      |

# Conclusions and Future Work

- Scenario/data used for teaching
  - 400+ students of COMP90024
    - Will be supported indefinitely!
- Data feed to Bushfire Data Commons Dashboard
  - <https://bdc poc.eresearch.unimelb.edu.au>
    - See other talk
  - Web service endpoint for data access (WFS)
- Evolution of air quality monitoring landscape

