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An odyssey of environmental pollution: The rise, fall and remobilisation of industrial lead in Australia

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2 **industrial lead in Australia**

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16 **Abstract**

17 The use of lead as an additive in petrol resulted in more than 240,000 tonnes of lead
18 being emitted to the Australian environment over a 70-year period from 1932, until
19 lead additives in petrol were eliminated in 2002. The consequences of Australia's
20 protracted industrial lead emissions and subsequent depositions caused widespread
21 contamination of urban and peri-urban aerosols, soils, plants, animals, and humans.
22 This paper charts the impact of those lead emissions via environmental archives and
23 proxies and examines the extent of recovery from one of the biosphere's most
24 pervasive and persistent environmental pollutants. The remobilisation of industrial
25 lead is examined by analysis of Sydney air filters that bracket wildfires between 1994

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