

Evolution of the Upper Hunter Air Quality Advisory Committee

The Learnings and Achievements

How did the UHAQAC start?

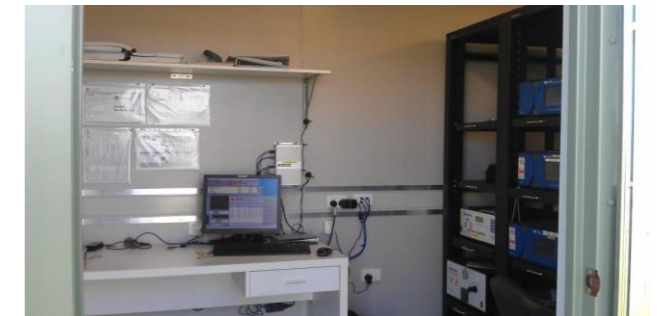
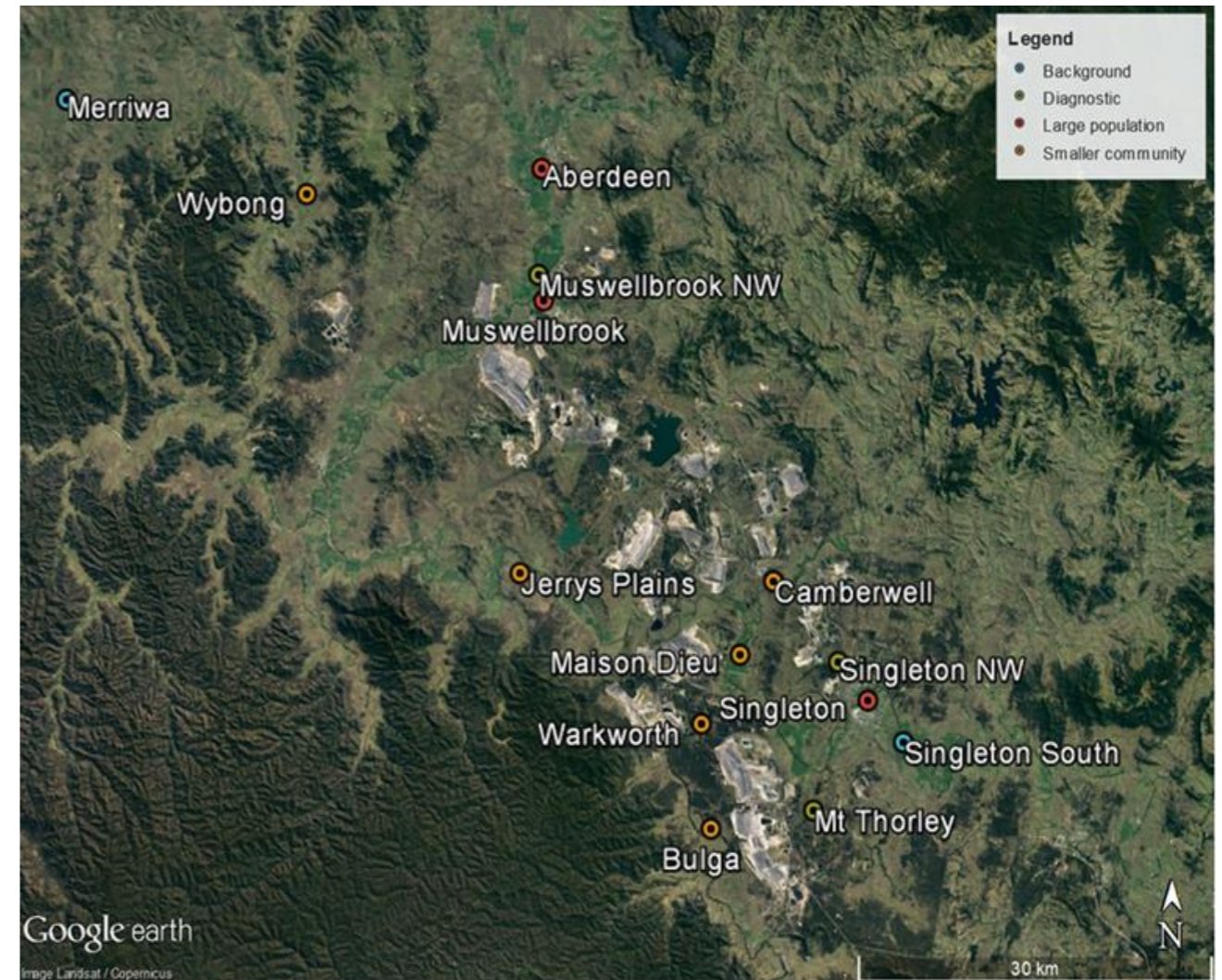
- September 2010
 - Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network Advisory Committee was established
 - Purpose: - to advise on the design and operation of an air quality monitoring network in the Upper Hunter
- Committee members represented:
 - Local community
 - Coal mining
 - Power generation industries
 - Non-coal industries
 - Local councils
 - NSW Health and Dept of Planning and Environment

What was the Committee's role in the early days?

- September 2010 – May 2012
 - Committee met every 2-3 months
 - Focus of meetings was:
 - ongoing discussion about monitoring site locations; and
 - how information and data collected by the network would be available to the public
- Construction of the network was completed in December 2011 with complete data collection commencing in February 2012

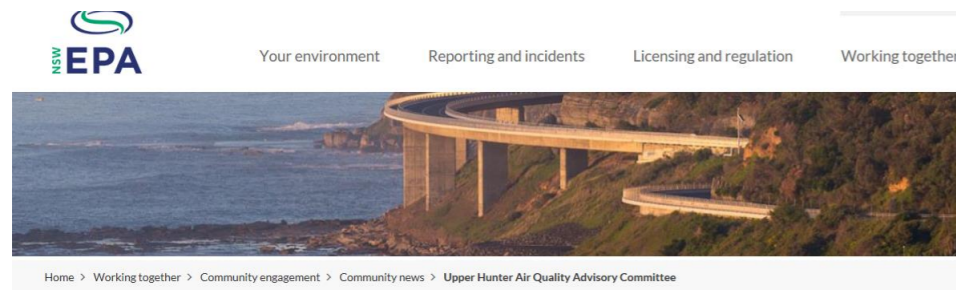
What does the network look like?

- 14 monitoring stations
 - 3 population centres, 6 smaller communities
 - 3 diagnostic (near mine operations)
 - 2 background (distant from impacts)
- Industry-funded, government-operated,
 - \$2.2 million Capital Cost to establish
 - \$700,000 annual Operation Cost (2015-16)
 - Industry levy in proportion to emissions, in accordance with Reg 79E [Protection of the Environment Operations \(General\) Regulation 2009](#).



Public accessibility...

<https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/working-together/community-engagement/community-news/upaq-advisory-committee>



Community engagement

Community news

RAAF Base Williamstown PFAS contamination

Upper Hunter Air Quality Advisory Committee

In September 2010, the NSW Government established an Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network Advisory Committee to advise on the design and operation of an air quality monitoring network in that region. The committee members represent the interests of the local community, the coal mining and power generation industries, non-coal

issues. The committee's name has been changed to the Upper Hunter Air Quality Advisory Committee to better reflect its new charter.

The committee comprises 14 members. The committee membership was chosen to represent a broad range of views to ensure a balanced approach to the operation of the air quality monitoring network and the management of regional air quality issues.

Terms of Reference

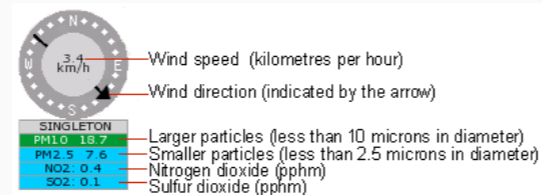
The Terms of Reference and Constitution (PDF 125KB) support and guide the activities of the Advisory Committee.

Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network Advisory Committee membership

Meeting minutes

Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Reports

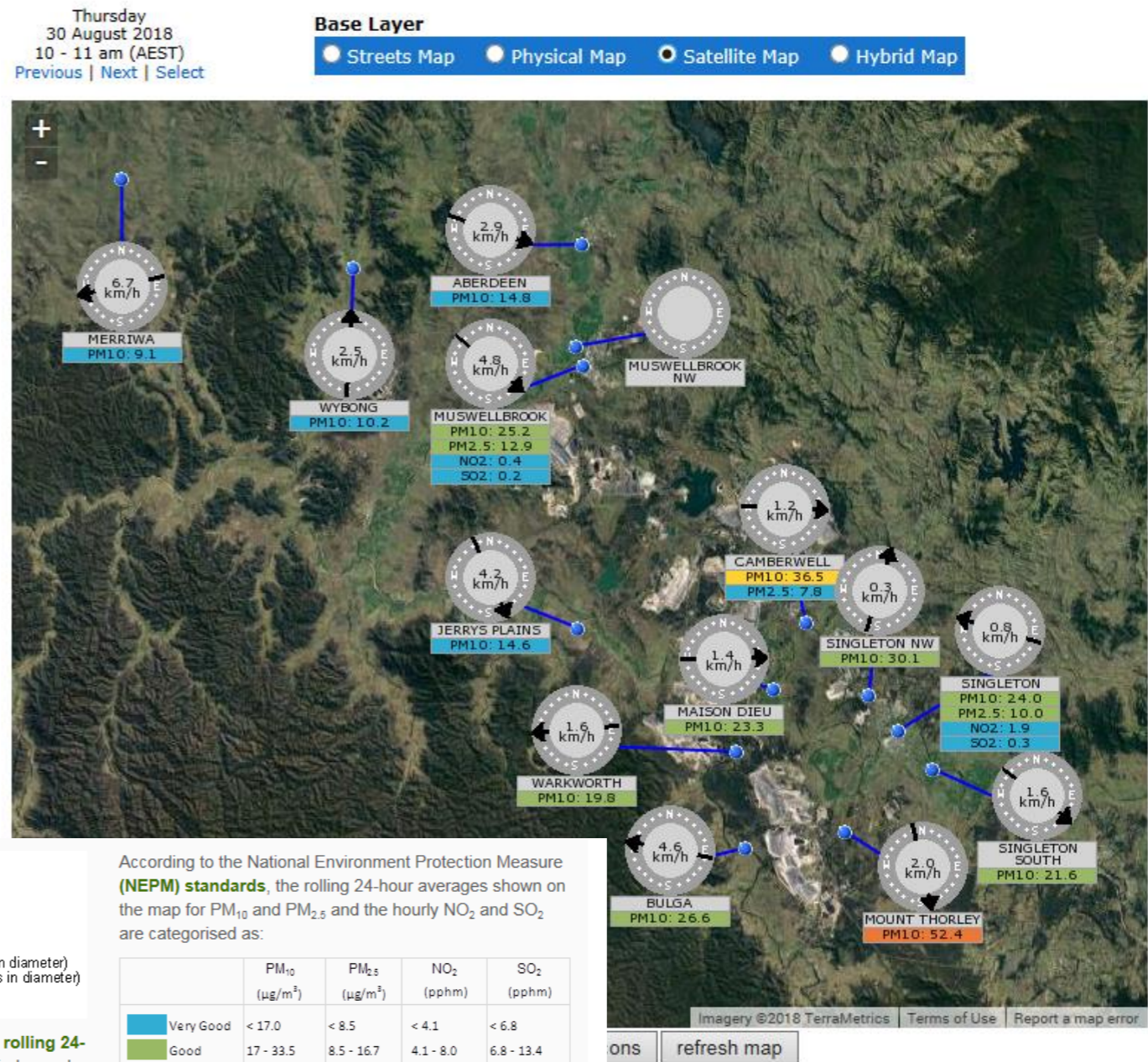
Tags: [Community](#)



The numbers above for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} indicate **rolling 24-hour averages**, while numbers for NO₂, SO₂, wind speed and wind direction values are hourly averaged data. All readings are updated hourly.

According to the National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) standards, the rolling 24-hour averages shown on the map for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} and the hourly NO₂ and SO₂ are categorised as:

	PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	PM _{2.5} (µg/m ³)	NO ₂ (pphm)	SO ₂ (pphm)
Very Good	< 17.0	< 8.5	< 4.1	< 6.8
Good	17 - 33.5	8.5 - 16.7	4.1 - 8.0	6.8 - 13.4
Fair	33.6 - 50.0	16.8 - 25	8.1 - 12.0	13.5 - 20.0
Poor	50.1 - 75.0	25.1 - 37.5	12.1 - 18.0	20.1 - 30.0
Very Poor	75.1 - 100.0	37.6 - 50.0	18.1 - 24.0	30.1 - 40.0
Hazardous	> 100.0	> 50.0	> 24.0	> 40.0



<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/aqms/uhunteraqmap.htm>



Once established, what next?

- May 2012 –Feb 2015
 - Committee meeting frequency decreased to 6 monthly
 - Standard agenda items were:
 - stakeholder feedback from members
 - Network system performance
 - Seasonal data analysis reports
- Feb 2015
 - Terms of Reference broadened to include advising more broadly on regional air quality issues.
 - Name changed as a result...

Now we have information, what does that mean?

- Learnings
 - Seasonal newsletters
 - Annual Performance Reports
 - UH Air Quality Particle Characterisation Study
- Achievements
 - Community proactively engaged via website and alert
 - Dust Stop Program and establishment of best practice in coal mines
 - Dust forecasting tools currently in development

Future directions?

- Broader advisory role beyond managing the network
 - Off-road diesel emissions
 - Woodsmoke
 - Other issues as they arise from time-to-time