



Environment Protection Authority – UHAQAC Minutes Planning Facilitation Workshop

Today's Meeting Date:	Thursday 21 February 2019 (No 31)	Next meeting date:	Thursday 23 May 2019 (32)
Meeting location:	Singleton Civic Centre	Last Meeting Date:	Thursday 22 November 2018 (No 30)
Meeting opened at:	10:00am	Meeting closed at:	12:00pm
Convenor	Mitchell Bennett	Minute Taker	Emily Ingram
Facilitator	Dianne Sneddon		
Present:	John Tate – Chair Dr Craig Dalton – Department of Health (DOH) Representative Cr Danny Thompson – Singleton Shire Council Dr Catherine Chicken – Commerce/Industry Representative Geoff Sharrock – Community Representative Carolyn O'Brien - Muswellbrook Shire Council Representative Matthew Parkinson – Power Generation Industry Representative John Watson – Coal Mining Industry Representative Alex Newton - Coal Mining Industry Representative Mayor Wayne Bedgood – Upper Hunter Shire Representative John Krey – Community Representative Leah Cook – DPE Representative Karen Marler - EPA Michael Howat - EPA Mitchell Bennett – EPA Holly Love - EPA		
Apologies:			

1	Review Minutes from last meeting Thursday 9 August 2018 (No 29)			
	Agenda Item	Action	Person Responsible	Completion Date
		This item was carried over until the following meeting.	Chairman	
2	Opportunities for Improving Air Quality Management in the Upper Hunter			
No	Agenda Item	Notes	Action/Decision	Status
2.1	Workshop Introduction	Chairman John Tate opened the workshop and welcomed all present. He introduced all new people attending the workshop, including the Facilitator Dianne Sneddon. Mr Tate gave an overview of the session. Ms Sneddon explained that her role was to assist with this important workshop to “discuss opportunities for improving the management of air quality in the Upper Hunter Region”.		
2.2	The role of the EPA in managing air quality	Mitchell Bennett, Unit Head Strategic Programs, EPA North Branch explained: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of the EPA and other government agencies in managing sources of air pollution • past and present actions by the EPA to manage air quality in the Upper Hunter Region. 		
2.3	Program Logic Matrix	Holly Love, Unit Head Stakeholder Engagement gave an overview of the program logic to be used at the session.		
2.4	Break Out Session	Small groups then discussed the following questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the outcome you want to achieve? 2. How would that outcome be achieved? 3. What are the barriers to achieving this outcome? 4. What are possible solutions to these barriers? 5. Who would be responsible? 		
2.5	Debrief on break out session	Groups presented the outcomes of the break out session.		
2.6	Rank issues in order	Using a voting system, the Committee will rank the break out session ideas. The ideas and ranking were as follows: <p style="text-align: right;">Number of Votes</p> <p>Local compliance officers 10</p>		

	Commission independent study by UON - Cumulative impacts of DUST	7		
	Use a drone daily for compliance	2		
	Review EPA complaints & responses	1		
	UHAQAC mining reps to provide recommendations to improve air pollution from open cut mines	1		
	Fast tracking of rehabilitation areas	10		
	Backfilling of voids - rehabilitation	3		
	Lobby 12 hr average - not 24 hr	5		
	Lobby for night time monitoring	2		
	Education for communities on recording exceedances - reporting to EnviroLine	9		
	Change reporting to mines/EPA	0		
	Education A- impacts of dust emissions via Facebook (12). Education B - targeted community education campaigns to Improve Trust (6)	18		
	Education B - targeted community education campaigns to Improve Trust	6		
	Alternate UHAQAC meetings to shared locations	0		
	Investigate apportion of pollution sources	12		
	Further develop site source monitoring	2		
	Input into development planning for assessments	6		

		<p>Transition from fossil fuels 9</p> <p>Develop ways to "incentivise" good behaviour/fines for bad behaviour 1</p> <p>UHAQAC to detail proposals for policy alternatives 1</p> <p>Advocacy role - Industry & Community 6</p> <p>Advocate for change NOX/SOX alert levels 7</p> <p>Connect with other stakeholders eg CCC's 8</p>		
2.7	Closing remarks	<p>Mr Tate gave a closing address. Ms Sneddon will summarise the outcomes of the workshop and distribute them to the committee for comment.</p> <p>Ms Marler added that the NSW Government would be starting 'Caretaker Mode' from 1 March 2019 which meant that no new programs are started during this time. It is however a good time for planning what can be achieved once government resumes.</p>	ACTION 1: Ms Sneddon to draft a letter summarising workshop outcomes for the chairman to send to the EPA.	

