



Environment Protection Authority – Newcastle Community Consultative Committee on the Environment Minutes

Today's Meeting Date:	Tues 11 December 2018 (No 52)	Next meeting date:	Tuesday 12 February 2019 (No 53)
Meeting location:	EPA Newcastle	Last Meeting Date:	12 September 2018 (Meeting Number 51)
Meeting opened at:	1730 hrs	Meeting closed at:	1939 hrs
EPA Convenor:	Karen Marler – EPA	Minute Secretary:	Emily Ingram - EPA
Present:	John Tate - Chair Dr Craig Dalton - Department of Health Representative Hamish Rutherford – EPA Thomas Levick - Environment Representative Cameron Jennings – EPA Keith Craig - Community Representative Loredana Warren - Office of Environment and Heritage Mark Manning - Newcastle City Council Representative Rick Banyard - Minister's Community Representative Michael Hood – EPA Chris Tola - Community Representative Karen Marler – EPA Trudie Larnach - Industry Representative Sheree Woodroffe - Industry Representative Jonathan Morris – Industry Representative		
Apologies:	Keith Wilks - Industry Representative Scott Thompson – Office of Environment and Heritage		

1 Review Minutes from last meeting (No 51, 12 September 2018)				
Matters arising from the previous Minutes: (No 51, 12 September 2018)				
No	Agenda Item	Action	Person Responsible	Completion Date
1.1	Adoption of previous minutes (No 51, 12 September 2018)	The minutes were adopted without change.	CHAIR	11.12.18
1.2	Meeting No. 51 (12 September 2018) Action 1	A copy presentation AMSA Presentation for Newcastle from AMSA sent to all Committee members 14.9.18 with AMSA Discussion Paper.	Emily Ingram EPA	14.9.18
1.3	Meeting No. 51 12 September 2018 () Action 2	Ongoing: AMSA to provide confirmation that the lost shipping containers do not contain any environmental contaminants.	Matt Johnson AMSA	
1.4	Meeting No. 51 12 September 2018 () Action 3	Send all Committee members copy of the OEH Newcastle Air Quality Monitoring Network Autumn 2018.	Emily Ingram EPA	21.11.18
1.5	Meeting No. 51 12 September 2018 () Action 4	OEH to include differences between winter and autumn to show differences with ammonia in air between seasons for the past few years.	Loredana Warren OEH	11.12.18
1.6	Meeting No. 51 12 September 2018 () Action 5	Complete: Orica to provide detail on seasonal ammonia fluctuations, from previously completed Ammonia Improvement Management Plan. Clarification was sought about this issue, and it was agreed that these items were being addressed in the report prepared by OEH on seasonal data for Newcastle.	Sheree Woodroffe	12.12.18
1.7	Meeting No. 51 12 September 2018 () Action 6	Trial, for a 6 month period (from 11 December 2018), the Draft NCCCE Committee Procedures.	John Tate CHAIR	11.9.18

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Living with Lead: soil and water				
No	Agenda Item	Notes	Action/Decision	Status
2.1	Cameron Jennings, Project Officer, EPA Contaminated Sites Section to show case Pasmenco Cockle Creek Smelter.	<p>Mr Cameron Jennings from EPA provided a presentation titled 'Managing health, environmental, and development planning impacts from the Pasmenco Cockle Creek Smelter, December 2018". This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a brief history of the site including air emissions and land contamination from the 1970's-1980's • The off-site use of smelter slag and how this has contaminated land • The Pasmenco Lead Abatement Strategy • The Lead Expert Working Group (LEWG) • Findings of the LEWG, including recommendations, council grants, government coordination, research on lead and the slag, and the NSW Lead Strategy Group • Key outcomes from LEWG <p>Mr Thomas Levick asked what outcomes of the Case Study are likely to transfer into the Newcastle area.</p> <p>Mr Cameron Jennings responded there will be issues with lead paint, lead fuel, leaching work form the slag heap and old copper smelters.</p> <p>Mr Thomas Levick asked if the slag issues are in parks and reserves of Newcastle.</p> <p>Mr Cameron Jennings responded that many sites are on private property – and many landowners are reluctant to have their land declared a contaminated site).</p> <p>Mr Thomas Levick asked in regard to other heavy metals and their concentrations that may be present.</p> <p>Mr Cameron Jennings responded that it had been a very contentious issue to set the standards for lead in soil – whether they are under 300ppm (not affected), or over 500 mg/kg (affected) has a big impact on people's properties. A third category was added which is called "potentially affected". If a DA is lodged for a property it will trigger testing be done at the property to determine if it is affected. This is a significant issue for the community, as it can impact on their property value and also cause concern about the cost of remediation works.</p>		Complete

Sustainability approach and current environmental case studies Port Waratah Coal Services Sustain				
No	Agenda Item	Notes	Action/Decision	Status
2.2	Trudie Larnach, Manager Environment and Community Relations, Port Waratah Coal Services	<p>Mrs Trudie Larnach provided a power point presentation titled '2017 Sustainable Development Report Pioneering through Partnership Port Waratah Coal Services". This presentation included:</p> <p>Port Waratah Coal Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who are we • What do we do Their Five Drivers- health and safety, effective organisation, operational delivery, coal chain, licence to operate with days over the benchmarks • The licence to operate framework • Reporting pathways • Key achievements • Identification of Material issues through stakeholder consultation • Sustainable development goals • Regional recognition: contributing to the global agenda in a local context • Licence to operate improvements: controlled discharge filtration system, wharf sump pump enhancement project, CCT yard machine lighting upgrades, 2018 community attitudes survey <p>Mr Thomas Levick asked if coal dust was measured along the coal railway network. Ms Trudie Larnach responded that the coal railway network was outside of the Port Waratah's accountability. However the air quality in suburbs surrounding the rail corridor is measured by the Newcastle Local Air Quality Monitoring Network.</p> <p>Ms Loredana Warren asked how many times has the facility stopped loading this year? Ms Trudie Larnach responded it had been twice, due to adverse weather conditions.</p> <p>Mr Keith Craig asked what happens to the sludge that is generated on site with the waste water? Ms Trudie Larnach responded that the sludge is banded, then dried and then it is saleable product.</p>	Action 1: A copy of Trudie's presentation to be sent to all members.	Complete 13.12.18

		<p>Mr Rick Banyard stated that community groups have been heavily involved with the new changes and improvements at the facility for example the changes in electricity use, water use reductions. It was through the work of these community groups that pushed the company to change.</p> <p>Mr Trudie Larnach responded yes, absolutely. These are great results from community consultations. Tours for the site are available for anyone to take if they are interested.</p>		
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Demographics from complainants past 3 years				
No	Agenda Item	Notes	Action/Decision	Status
2.3	Hamish Rutherford, Senior Operations Officer, EPA	<p>Mr Hamish Rutherford provided a power point presentation titled ‘Newcastle LGA Environment Line Reports January 2015-April 2018’. This presentation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yearly number of environmental reports – Newcastle LGA v NSW • Number and main types of Newcastle LGA reports between 2015-18 • Most common report sub-categories in Newcastle LGA • Trend of reports in Newcastle LGA Jan 15-April 18 • Top suburbs contributing to reports in Newcastle LGA • Proportion of report types in top suburbs • Top Newcastle suspects 15-18, including an overview for Orica Kooragang, CMC concrete Adamstown, Koppers Mayfield North • Conclusions 	<p>Action 2: Arrange for the Intelligence and Analysis Team from EPA to present on how they use data from complaints: with a focus in Littering and Smoky vehicles.</p> <p>Action 3: Send a copy of Hamish presentation to Committee members</p>	<p>Complete 12.02.19</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

OEH presentation on Winter 2018 Air Quality Report and Draft Local Newcastle Monitoring Network 4 yearly Review Report				
No	Agenda Item	Notes	Action/Decision	Status
2.4	Loredana Warren, Senior Climate and Atmospheric Scientist, OEH	<p>Mrs Loredana Warren provided a power point presentation titled 'Newcastle Air Quality Report Seasonal Analysis Winter 2018'. This presentation included:</p> <p>Summary Period – 1 June 2018 to 31 August 2018</p> <p>Meteorology: Newcastle had average rainfall overall, with wet conditions in June and very dry conditions in July and August. Daytime temperatures very much above average, while average temperatures overnight.</p> <p>Air quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM2.5, NO2 & SO2: No days over the benchmarks • NH3: No days over the benchmark • PM10: Eight days over the benchmark • All sites except Wallsend recorded daily averages over the benchmark • Drought continues in most of NSW with widespread dust storms in July and August • Most extensive events on 18-19 July and 4 August, exceptional events due to long-range dust: • 18-19 July: 25 NSW sites over the benchmark, with dust storm from SA/Mallee • 4 August: 16 northern sites over the benchmark (Hunter and Namoi) <p>PM10 & PM2.5 – rolling annual averages to end of winter 2015 to 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trend graphs showing the annual rolling average to the end of winter each year. • PM10 levels to the end of winter were higher compared to three previous years. • Dust from drought affected areas in NSW, would have contributed to the increase observed in the region • PM2.5 levels generally remained similar to previous years. <p>Mrs Loredana Warren displayed a copy of the 'Delivering dependable air quality science to Newcastle Communities Four-year review of the Newcastle Local Air Quality</p>		

		<p>Monitoring Network”, and asked the Committee to provide any feedback as the Draft version.</p> <p>Dr Craig Dalton asked when feedback on the review report was due. Dr Dalton expressed concern that the community was as confused as ever about the air quality data due to the media management of the issue. Has community understanding been established in the first instance for this report, and how has this been assessed? He requested clearer interpretation on what the data means – as he gets enquiries from the community worried about moving to the area as they heard the air quality is bad through the media, yet the data shows the air quality is good most of the time. Ms Loredana Warren responded that feedback should be provided as soon as possible, and any further comments could be emailed to her directly.</p> <p>Mr Keith Craig and Mr Rick Banyard advised that community members do have a better understanding of air quality in the region since the start of the Network. In particular, the knowledge gained through the Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study, for example particle sources at Stockton. The community also now have better access to air quality data in the region.</p> <p>Mr Keith Craig suggested OEH could go to the media and explain what the data means.</p>		
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Director Hunter Update				
No	Agenda Item	Notes	Action/Decision	Status
2.5	Karen Marler Director Hunter EPA: Update	This time was reallocated to Loredana Warren during the meeting – to allow OEH report to be discussed. Chairman John Tate approved this change to the agenda, and for the Directors Update to be emailed to members out of session.	Action 4: Report to go to members out of session	22.01.19
2.6	Meeting Schedule for 2019			
	Discussion on when NCCCE quarterly meetings will be held during 2019.	Chairman John Tate confirmed the following dates for NCCCE to be held during 2019: 12 Feb 2019 7 May 2019 9 July 2019 15 October 2019		