



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

Today's Meeting Date:	9 July 2019 (No 55)	Next meeting date:	15 October 2019 (No 56)
Meeting location:	EPA Newcastle	Last Meeting Date:	7 May 2019 (No 54)
Meeting opened at:	1730	Meeting closed at:	1950
EPA Convenor:	Lindsay Fulloon – EPA	Minute Secretary:	Bianca Morton - EPA
Present:	John Tate - Chair Dr Craig Dalton - Department of Health Thomas Levick - Environment Representative Scott Thompson - Office of Environment and Heritage Mark Manning - Newcastle City Council James Vidler – Newcastle City Council Keith Craig - Community Representative Loredana Warren - Office of Environment and Heritage Rick Banyard - Minister's Community Representative Trudie Larnach - Industry Representative Jackie Spiteri – Industry Representative Sherree Woodroffe – Industry Representative Lindsay Fulloon – EPA Adam Gilligan - EPA Bianca Morton - EPA		
Apologies:	Chris Tola - Community Representative		

1 Review Minutes from last meeting Tuesday 7 May 2019 (No 54)				
No	Agenda Item	Action	Person Responsible	Completion Date
1.1	Adoption of previous minutes		Chair	9 July 2019
1.2	Action 1: invite someone to present on resource recovery and recovered glass		Bianca Morton	9 July 2019
1.3	Action 2: EPA to provide information to Committee members about the NEPM review community consultation session to be held in Newcastle.		Emily Ingram	24 May 2019
1.4	Action 3: EPA to update the next Committee meeting on the NEPM review community consultation session		Bianca Morton	9 July 2019
1.5	Action 4: Distribute the Committee Procedures to members and adopt if no objection is received within 7 days	No objections were received. Committee Procedures have been adopted.	Emily Ingram	15 May 2019

No	Agenda Item	Notes	Action/Decision	Status
2.1	Waste team update – resource recovery	<p>Stephanie Yu (EPA) presented on: Waste Markets – Post National Sword and moving towards a circular economy, which included an overview of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the NSW Circular Economy Policy which helps guide NSW Government decisions for transitioning to a circular economy. The NSW EPA 20 year waste and resource recovery strategy National Action Plan glass recycling, the sources of glass, current options in NSW and specific requirements, as well as the use of glass in roads. EPA Resource Recovery Order and Exemption requirements for recovered glass sand. <p>See presentation for more details.</p> <p>Question: is there a growing acceptance of glass being used in road base. Answer: yes there has been for a while in industry. A number of councils have been awarded grants to use glass. Lend Lease are using it on their Pacific Highway upgrade through grant funding.</p> <p>The Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) was also discussed, and how this interacts with glass recycling, as well as looking at the finances of the scheme. A percentage of the glass collected through the scheme is recycled for these kinds of uses.</p> <p>It was noted that there is information on the website, as well as a report to be released shortly.</p> <p>Action 1: EPA to provide more details on the release of the CDS report, and link to the CDS website.</p> <p>Action 2: circulate presentation to the Committee.</p>	<p>Action 1: EPA to provide more details on the release of the CDS report, and link to the CDS website.</p> <p>Action 2: circulate presentation to the Committee</p>	<p>Complete 16.07.19</p> <p>Complete 10.7.19</p>
2.2	Environmental Sensor Network	<p>James Vidler (Newcastle City Council), presented on: Environmental Sensing Network, which included an overview of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newcastle City Council has a focus on smart cities, with their Newcastle Smart City Strategy. 	<p>Action 3: circulate presentation to the Committee.</p>	<p>Complete 10.7.19</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using LoRaWAN to set up sensing network. This allows powered devices to communicate over long distances. The battery life can last years in the field. • The LoRaWAN network is LGA wide, and sensors can measure a wide variety of things e.g. parking, garbage bin levels, air quality. <p>See presentation for more details.</p> <p>There was a discussion around air quality capabilities. It was noted that these sensors still need to be quality checked, and will not be as accurate as larger networks such as the existing OEH air quality network. The Sensor network could be used in conjunction with other tools.</p> <p>An example of this is in the Blue Mountains, where 12 low cost air quality sensors (KOALAs) in clusters of three are in use, providing air quality data. This is currently for a 12 month trial period.</p> <p>It was highlighted that anyone can buy a sensor in Newcastle, however the focus is on identifying needs in the community. Newcastle City Council are looking to the community, community groups, and researchers for ideas to use the network.</p> <p>Question: can the sensors be used for measuring noise Answer: Sensors and this technology will become better over time. They can be used for measuring noise, for example at live music venues. They can also measure vibrations.</p> <p>Other uses include to measure demographics, such as people counting, car counting, and parking spaces.</p> <p>For parking, Newcastle City Council can use a range of data, including the sensors, with the aim to provide the community with information on where they can park at certain times of the day.</p> <p>It was noted that these sensors can not replace existing regulatory tools, such as using them for measuring noise levels, however they could be used to assist in identifying issues for further investigation.</p>		
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No	Agenda Item	Notes	Action/Decision	Status
2.3	OEH presentation on the Newcastle Autumn 2019 Air Quality Report	<p>Loredana Warren, presented on Newcastle Air Quality Monitoring Network Autumn 2019.</p> <p>The summary of March and May includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newcastle had below average rainfall, temperatures were above minimas to above average maximas. • No days over benchmarks or assessment criteria for NO₂, SO₂ and NH₃, PM_{2.5} • 15 days of benchmark for PM₁₀. <p>See report for details.</p> <p>It was noted that a large impact to PM₁₀ was from dust coming from inland sources, especially due to drought conditions. It was discussed that Stockton will have high levels of PM₁₀ from sea salt, given it is just 300m away from the coast. Sites like Carrington, can see a big difference in levels, even though they are only slightly further from the coast.</p> <p>It was discussed whether the reports should exclude sources such as bushfires and other sources air quality, so that there can be a focus on industry. It was decided that it is important to report on all sources to the community, and that currently the reports do try to determine what can be attributed to other sources, by highlighting impacts from wind, drought, bushfires etc.</p> <p>It was highlighted that that was the purpose of the Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study. It was discussed that this needs to be re-distributed, and more of the community need to be reminded of this report and have access.</p> <p>Action 4: EPA to circulate the Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study.</p>	Action 4: EPA to circulate the Particle Characterisation Study	Complete 16.07.19

No	Agenda Item	Notes	Action/Decision	Status
2.4	EPA Update	<p>Lindsay Fulloon provided the EPA update, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder of the upcoming EPA Victoria NEPM consultation on air quality, Tuesday 23 July at Newcastle Town Hall 5:30 – 7:30pm. • Discussion of environment line data for May and June. The majority of calls during May were associated with air odours. For June, we saw less calls, and the majority were regarding water quality. • Update on the status of the incident investigations in Mayfield regarding the premises known as Koppers, details below. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In June the EPA provided the NCCCE with an update following 2 incidents that occurred at the Koppers facility on 21 May and 22 May 2019 ○ EPA investigations into both these incidents remain active ○ In response to our incident investigation inspections the EPA engaged the assistance of Fire and Rescue NSW to enable us to safely conduct a detailed site inspection of parts of the Koppers premises that we had concerns about. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These inspections identified areas of concern, such as unlocked and unrestrained hatches on chemical storage tanks and roofs, that may be contributors to odours in the community. • In response to these observations the EPA issued Koppers with a Prevention Notice requiring the company to assess and address any risks that may lead to uncontrolled emissions (we provided the NCCCE with a copy of the Prev Notice at the time in June). • A report on the condition and functionality of tank: dip hatches, pressure relief valves and radar gauges is due to the EPA on 19 July 2019 • The notice states “Note: Following receipt and review of the independent mechanical engineer's report(s) it is the EPA's intention to issue any such further notices as are necessary to ensure activities are carried on in an environmentally satisfactory manner.” 	Action 5: EPA to organise a presentation from HCCDC.	TBC 15 October 2019

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ While we have seen improvements at the Koppers facility, such as ducting air emissions for further treatment by thermal oxidation, the number of incidents from Koppers is of concern to both the EPA and the community. ○ In response to this concern the EPA has audited Koppers environmental controls and systems with the assistance of two specialist environmental hazard risk experts. SafeWork was also involved in these audits. The first stage of these audits was two full days of inspections of the plant and records. The risk experts have reviewed Koppers systems and records and provided the EPA with a draft report on Friday. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The EPA is assessing this draft report to determine the most appropriate way to address the recommendations ○ On 2 July 2019 the EPA became aware of an emission from a tank at Koppers. This incident is now the subject of EPA investigations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The first stage of EPA’s regulatory action in response to this incident has been the issue of a Clean-up notice, which effectively prohibits Koppers from conducting the activity we think caused the incident, until such time as Koppers can prove to the EPA that it has in place systems to prevent a repeat. ● A summary of the recent engagement that has occurred around Newcastle regarding ongoing environmental investigations into contaminated land. A total of three door knocks have been undertaken, to inform local residents and determine if there are any exposure pathways through using bore water. ● SO₂ impacts from shipping was discussed, and that new emission reductions will apply to all ships, including those of Port of Newcastle from 1 January 2020. This is believed to reduce fine particle emissions from shipping in NSW by 59-80%. <p>Rick Banyard provided questions for discussion prior to the meeting, which were addressed in the update.</p> <p>Question: has there been any progress with the installation of a benzene monitor in Mayfield?</p> <p>This was discussed, and the EPA advised that the regulatory focus is on preventing the source of Benzene emissions from Koppers, rather than to look into monitoring at that</p>		
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2.5	General Business	<p>The Chair asked for any other items to discuss.</p> <p>Thomas Levick raised that he would like to add water quality to the next meeting agenda for discussion.</p> <p>Action 6: Thomas Levick to present on water quality at next meeting</p> <p>The Committee was reminded of the next meeting date: 15 October 2019.</p> <p>Meeting closed 7:50pm.</p>	Action 6: Thomas Levick to present on water quality at next meeting.	15 October 2019