

## MEETING No. 11

### Newcastle Community Consultative Committee on the Environment (NCCCE)

#### MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** 10 September 2012      **Time:** 4:00 pm

**File:** FIL11/10927

**Location:** **Site Tour: Candidate Locations for Air Quality Monitoring Stations**  
**Meeting: EPA, 117 Bull Street, Newcastle West**

**In attendance:** John Tate (Chair); Keith Craig (Community); Adam Gilligan (Newcastle City Council); Nick Godfrey-Smith (Industry); Kate Johnson (Community), Paul McBain (Minister's Nominee); Paul Thomas (Industry), Zoe Rogers (Environment); Graham Woods (Industry)

Environment Protection Authority (EPA): Karen Marler (Acting Manager Hunter Region); Leanne Graham (Project Officer)

Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH): Chris Eiser (Manager Atmospheric Science), Scott Thompson (Senior Air Quality Monitoring Officer)

#### Meeting Record

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
<b>Item 1.</b>	<p><b>Site Tour: Candidate Locations for Air Quality Monitoring Stations</b> Chris Eiser (OEH) guided the minibus tour, explaining site selection and site assessment procedures. Based on a review of meteorology and air quality, OEH recommended four localities for establishing new air quality monitoring stations, namely, Fullerton Cove, Stockton, Mayfield West and Carrington. The sites are designed to monitor human exposure to Newcastle's industrial emissions.</p> <p>The tour visited 11 potential sites, which meet Australian Standards for the location of air quality monitoring stations. There are two potential sites at Fullerton Cove, three in Stockton, three in Mayfield West and three in Carrington / Wickham. OEH provided draft site assessment reports for each locality, inviting review and comment by NCCCE. A draft report for each locality compares the location of potential sites against the criteria for locating a monitoring station.</p>
<b>Item 2</b>	<p><b>Welcome from the Chair</b> The Chair welcomed Committee Members and OEH, EPA staff.</p>
<b>Item 3</b>	<p><b>Apologies</b> Nil</p>
<b>Item 4</b>	<p><b>Minutes from Previous Meeting</b> The Chair deferred this item for discussion following Item 9 General Business.</p>
<b>Item 5</b>	<p><b>Actions Arising from Previous Meeting</b> The Chair deferred this item for discussion following Item 9 General Business.</p>
<b>Item 6</b>	<p><b>NSW Ministry for Health, Air Pollution Expert Advisory Committee Review of EPA/OEH Reports on Air Quality in Newcastle</b> The Chair deferred this item for discussion following Item 7 Progress Report</p>

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
<p><b>Item 7</b></p>	<p><b>Progress Report – Newcastle Monitoring Network</b></p> <p>Chris Eiser (OEH) presented a recap of the site tour of potential sites for air quality monitoring stations, designed to measure the impact of industrial emissions on human exposure (Refer to Attachment 1). Mr Eiser highlighted the advantages and disadvantages of the alternative sites under consideration within each locality and requested feedback from the NCCCE.</p> <p>NCCCE members sought clarification of the Committee’s role in the decision-making process regarding the justification and design of the network. Paul McBain referred to the NCCCE Terms of Reference and the role of the Committee in contributing to the implementation of environmental monitoring systems.</p> <p>The EPA recapped that the Minister directed the EPA, in 2011, to investigate the need for air quality monitoring network in Newcastle. Ms Marler noted the EPA’s obligations under legislation to consult with stakeholders and experts on health impacts and cost effectiveness when considering the implementation of environmental monitoring. Ms Marler confirmed that a meeting between the EPA and industry, and including the NCCCE Chair, planned for 20 September, would commence a process to engage and negotiate with industry on a funding model for the network.</p> <p>NCCCE members expressed concerns about speaking on behalf of the wider community without direct consultation. Nevertheless, the Committee acknowledged that based on the site tour and the draft assessment reports, a ranking of preferred sites within the recommended localities was possible.</p> <p><b>ACTION 1: EPA to prepare a Briefing Paper summarising the draft site assessment reports, for distribution to NCCCE as soon as possible. NCCCE to provide feedback on site assessments to EPA as soon as possible, and for discussion at the next meeting.</b></p>
<p><b>Deferred Item 6</b></p>	<p><b>Deferred Discussion of NSW Ministry for Health, Air Pollution Expert Advisory Committee Review of EPA/OEH Reports on Air Quality in Newcastle</b></p> <p>Karen Marler (EPA) reported that the EPA received a response from the NSW Ministry for Health, Air Pollution Expert Advisory Committee (APEAC).</p> <p>The letter from the APEAC to the EPA noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Lower Hunter generally has good air quality;</li> <li>• Current information suggests no specific community health issues that could benefit from additional air quality monitoring;</li> <li>• The existing industry-operated air quality monitoring system does not monitor continuously, and</li> <li>• There are potential benefits in rationalising current industry monitors into a well designed network, with air quality data being publically available.</li> </ul>

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
<p><b>Item 8</b></p>	<p><b>Future Planning Community Forum – Health and Air Quality</b></p> <p>The EPA confirmed negotiations between the Ministry for Health and Hunter New England Population Health regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed dates (Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November or Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November) for the Community Forum are to be set in consultation with the Minister for the Environment, Hon Robyn Parker MP.</li> <li>• Tentative bookings for 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the John Gebhardt Centre, Ethnic Communities Council, 2A Platt St, Waratah</li> <li>• Draft program (as presented in Meeting Papers attached to NCCCE Agenda)</li> <li>• Confirmed availability of speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Andrew Mattes (EPA) to set the scene on air quality in Newcastle</li> <li>○ Dr Craig Dalton (University of Newcastle) to speak on health and air quality in Newcastle</li> <li>○ HNEPH representative to be confirmed for Expert Panel Question and Answer session</li> <li>○ Other experts from University of Newcastle, to be confirmed</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The EPA confirmed ongoing liaison with the Minister’s office, speakers and NCCCE.</p>
<p><b>Item 9</b></p>	<p><b>General Business</b></p> <p>The Chair tabled a letter from Mr Tim Owen, AM MP, Member for Newcastle, dated 5 September 2012, regarding support for Zoe Rogers’s request for Meeting Minutes of the Dust, Noise and Vibration Forum, held in Newcastle on 4 November 2010. Mr Owen noted that he had been advised that neither the EPA, nor the Minister for Environment’s office holds a copy of the requested information. Mr Owen advised that he has written to the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) requesting the minutes and will inform the NCCCE Chair if the minutes become available.</p> <p>Adam Gilligan (NCC) noted that Orica advised that all necessary approvals are in place for the construction of the air quality monitoring station at Stockton. Construction is expected to commence on Wednesday, 12 September 2012, and to be completed by 30 October 2012.</p>
<p><b>Deferred Item 4</b></p>	<p><b>Deferred Discussion of Minutes from Previous Meeting</b></p> <p>The Chair accepted responsibility for the postponement of the NCCCE August meeting, to September, in consultation with the EPA. The postponement allowed for attendance of those members who expressed different recollections of the previous meeting and questioned the wording of the draft minutes, Item 8.4.1, Meeting No.10 (11 July).</p> <p>Committee members shared different recollections of the previous meeting.</p> <p>Following discussion, the Committee resolved to adopt the Meeting No. 10 Minutes, as a true and accurate record.</p>

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
<b>Deferred Item 5</b>	<p><b>Deferred Discussion of Actions Arising from Previous Meeting</b></p> <p>Action 4 (Meeting No.10, 11 July): The Chair noted that he had considered the draft letter, referred to in Item 8.4.1, and that the letter had not been sent under his signature. The Chair tabled a letter received from EPA Chief Environmental Regulator, Mark Gifford, dated 7 September 2012, regarding a proposal from Professor Howard Bridgman to provide monthly air quality monitoring reports to NCCCE.</p> <p>The letter referred to communication between the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Robyn Parker and Mr Gifford, pre-empting that Professor Bridgman's proposal would be referred to a meeting of the NCCCE. Mr Gifford noted that if the NCCCE resolves to support Professor Bridgman's proposal, then he is happy for the EPA to discuss the funding of the proposal.</p> <p>The EPA noted that the proposal from Professor Bridgman had been received.</p> <p><b>ACTION 2: NCCCE Chair to send a letter to Professor Bridgman, to formalise the request for his proposal. Professor Bridgman's proposal be circulated to NCCCE members and referred for discussion at the next meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Other Outstanding Actions</b></p> <p>Action 4 (Meeting No.9, 13 June): The Chair tabled four copies of a report by Dart Energy, presented to Newcastle City Council, on 12 July 2012, on test drilling for coal seam gas at Fullerton Cove (Please see NCCCE Project Officer for a copy).</p> <p>No further discussion on other outstanding actions.</p>
<b>Item 10</b>	<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Date:</b> Wednesday 10 October 2012</p> <p><b>Location:</b> EPA Conference Room, Ground Floor, 117 Bull Street, Newcastle West</p> <p><b>Time:</b> 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm</p>
<b>Meeting ended at 20:00</b>	

## ACTION ITEM LOG

DATE SET	ACTION ITEM DESCRIPTION	DUE DATE	RESP
<b>Meeting No. 11, 10 September 2012</b>			
<b>ACTION 1</b>	NCCCE Chair to send a letter to Professor Bridgman, to formalise the request for his proposal. Professor Bridgman's proposal be circulated to NCCCE members and referred for discussion at the next meeting.	10 Oct	Chair, LG
<b>ACTION 2</b>	EPA to prepare a Briefing Paper summarising the draft site assessment reports, for distribution to NCCCE as soon as possible. NCCCE to provide feedback on site assessments to EPA as soon as possible, and for discussion at the next meeting.	10 Oct	LG, All