

## MEETING No. 13

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

#### MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** 5 November 2012      **Time:** 5:30 pm

**File:** FIL11/10927

**Location:** EPA Conference Room, Ground Floor, 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), Graham Woods (Industry).

Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Mark Hartwell (Unit Head Regional Operations), Leanne Graham (Project Officer).

**Apologies**            Zoe Rogers (Environment).

#### Meeting Record

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
Item 1	<p><b>Welcome from the Chair</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Committee Members and EPA staff.</p>
Item 2	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>As above.</p>
Item 3	<p><b>Minutes from Previous Meeting</b></p> <p>Minutes of Meeting No.12 (10 Oct 12) were adopted as a true and accurate record, incorporating an amendment, suggested by Mark Hartwell, to remove repetition.</p>
Item 4	<p><b>Actions Arising from Previous Meeting</b></p> <p><u>Meeting No.12 (10 Oct 12) Recommendation 1:</u> The EPA noted the NCCCE's support for the provision of monthly reports to the Committee, summarising air quality in the Lower Hunter, for a ten-month period from September 2012 to June 2013. No further detail is available currently.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.12 (10 Oct 12) Recommendation 2:</u> The EPA noted the NCCCE's request for updates in 2013 on the Pollution Reduction Report by Cargill Australia Ltd, regarding odour assessment and the testing of the new biofilter.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.12 (10 Oct 12) Recommendation 3:</u> The EPA confirmed the Minister's availability to open the Newcastle Community Forum on Health and Air Quality, 8 November 2012.</p>

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
<p><b>Item 4 (cont)</b></p>	<p><b>Actions Arising from Previous Meeting (cont)</b></p> <p><u>Meeting No.12 (10 Oct 12) Recommendation 4:</u> The EPA confirmed that independent speaker A/Prof Howard Bridgman accepted the invitation to attend the Community Forum on Health and Air Quality, to participate in the panel discussion.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.12 (10 Oct 12) Recommendation 5:</u> The EPA noted that the advertising of the Newcastle Community Forum on Health and Air Quality, 8 November, 2012, was limited to the Newcastle Herald only. Advertising deadlines in local papers had passed.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.12 (10 Oct 12) Recommendation 6:</u> The EPA noted that PWCS declined the invitation to present to the NCCCE on the Port Waratah Coal Services Health Report. (For further detail, refer to Item 8.5.1 below)</p> <p><u>Meeting No.12 (10 Oct 12) Recommendation 7:</u> The EPA reported on actions to manage industrial noise in the port area.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.12 (10 Oct 12) Action 1:</u> A new EPA website is being developed to improve community access to information. The EPA is willing to discuss with the NCCCE opportunities for improving communication during non-emergency incidents.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION 1: That the EPA informs NCCCE on future developments in public communications strategies.</b></p> <p><u>Meeting No.12 (10 Oct 12) Action 2:</u> The Committee decided to use the Committee Minutes to extend an open invitation to the Minister for the Environment, Hon Robyn Parker MP, to attend Committee meetings.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION 2: That the EPA and the Minister for the Environment, Hon Robyn Parker MP, note that the NCCCE extends an open invitation to the Minister to attend meetings of the NCCCE.</b></p> <p><u>Meeting No.12 (10 Oct 12) Action 3:</u> In progress. The Committee provided the Chair with draft correspondence on the following issues of community concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To Workcover NSW, requesting statutory reform to require notification of neighbours in all circumstances where asbestos removal work is occurring.</li> <li>- To Roads and Maritime Services, requesting a briefing regarding cumulative traffic impacts particularly on Kooragang Island.</li> <li>- To the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and Newcastle Port Corporation, requesting a briefing regarding strategic planning or development in and around the Port of Newcastle.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair noted that such issues lie outside the portfolio of the Minister for the Environment and therefore may lie outside of the Committee's brief. The Chair agreed to discuss the draft correspondence with the Minister.</p> <p><b>ACTION 1: Chair to advise the Minister of NCCCE's proposal to dispatch the draft correspondence to relevant authorities on issues of community concern.</b></p>

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
<p><b>Item 4 (cont)</b></p>	<p><b>Actions Arising from Previous Meeting (cont)</b></p> <p><u>Meeting No.12 (10 Oct 12) Action 4:</u> In progress. Refer to Item 6 below.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.12 (10 Oct 12) Action 5:</u> Completed. Committee members confirmed support for the Draft Program for the Newcastle Community Forum on Health and Air Quality, scheduled for 8 November 2012.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.12 (10 Oct 12) Action 6:</u> Completed. Committee members confirmed circulation, among their networks, of the flyer promoting the Newcastle Community Forum on Health and Air Quality, scheduled for 8 November 2012.</p> <p><b><u>Meeting No.10 (11 Jul 12) Action 5:</u> Completed. The Chair received correspondence from the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet (DP&amp;C), dated 16 October 2012, regarding the outcomes of the Coal Dust and Noise Forum, held on 4 November 2010 and facilitated by the previous Minister for the Hunter, Ms Jodie McKay. DP&amp;C was unable to source an official copy of those minutes. DP&amp;C provided, for the NCCCE's information, copies of minutes of subsequent meetings facilitated by DP&amp;C. The minutes record issues which recur on the NCCCE's agenda, such as: the implementation of an air quality monitoring network in the lower Hunter; the monitoring of air emissions in the rail corridor; and fact sheets for community education.</b></p>
<p><b>Item 5</b></p>	<p><b>Progress Report – Newcastle Air Quality Monitoring Network</b></p> <p>The EPA provided an update on industry consultation about funding for the local air quality monitoring network. The EPA is considering two funding options based on emissions data from the recently released NSW Air Emissions Inventory.</p> <p>The EPA expects to finalise the industry agreement by March 2013, in line with the timeframe presented to NCCCE Meeting No.8, on 9 May 2012. Despite the delay in the assessment of potential locations for monitoring sites, the industry consultation is running on schedule. The EPA anticipates commissioning all monitoring sites from November 2013 to January 2014. Chair John Tate attended the initial meeting with industry where he explained the role of the Committee. It is not expected that NCCCE will be involved in further discussion with industry about funding.</p>
<p><b>Item 6</b></p>	<p><b>Locations for Air Quality Monitoring Stations</b></p> <p>The NCCCE provided feedback on the proposed locations of the air quality monitoring stations at Mayfield, Carrington, Stockton and Fern Bay. The community generally supports the recommended locations, but sought confirmation that the assessment followed a scientific method which considered wind directions and industrial emissions.</p> <p>The EPA confirmed that the site assessment procedures followed Australian standards and that the Orica-operated site, at Stockton, meets accreditation requirements of the National Association Testing Authorities (NATA).</p> <p>The Committee discussed the limitations of the two options at Fern Bay and noted that the OEH had considered alternative locations for an air quality monitoring station.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION 3: The NCCCE recommends the location of air quality monitoring stations at the three sites which best meet the assessment criteria at Mayfield, Carrington and Stockton. The NCCCE recommends that the OEH further investigate a more suitable option for a site at Fern Bay.</b></p>

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
Item 7	<p><b>Newcastle Community Forum on Health and Air Quality, 8 November 2012</b></p> <p>The NCCCE and EPA discussed the program and confirmed individual's roles and responsibilities for the Newcastle Community Forum on Health and Air Quality, scheduled for Thursday 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, 8 November 2012, to be held at the John Gebhardt Centre, 2A Platt Street, Waratah.</p>
Item 8	<p><b>8.1. Environmental Concerns with Existing Industries</b></p> <p><b>8.1.1 Koppers Update</b></p> <p>Mark Hartwell provided an update on the EPA's investigation of Koppers Carbon Material and Chemicals Pty Ltd, regarding a naphthalene spill during the cleaning of a pipe, reported by Koppers, in February 2012.</p> <p>The EPA investigation required Koppers to model the naphthalene spill. The modelling report predicted that no odour was likely to be have been detected off the premises. Koppers reported that no persons on-site were affected by the odour incident. At the time of the incident, the EPA officer detected a faint odour. The EPA received four odour complaints associated with the incident. Three complainants declined to make a written statement. The EPA found insufficient evidence to proceed to court, but issued a Penalty Notice to the company for failing to operate in a proper and efficient manner..</p> <p><b>8.2. Environmental Concerns with Proposed Industries</b> No discussion.</p> <p><b>8.3. Environmental Planning Matters</b> No discussion.</p> <p><b>8.4. Environmental Monitoring and Regulation</b> No discussion.</p> <p><b>8.5. Environmental Management Issues, including Health Impacts</b></p> <p><b>8.5.1 PWCS: Health Study</b></p> <p>Kate Johnson, in consultation with the Stockton Community Action Group, conveyed community concern for workers and for people living in the vicinity of Port Waratah Coal Services (PWCS), on Kooragang Island, following a report on the incidence of cancer among PWCS workers. Ms Johnson recommended that the NCCCE review the research documentation and water quality data.</p> <p>The Chair received correspondence from PWCS, dated 2 November 2012, including: the research report; a summary factsheet; and a statement from Hunter New England Health which concluded that the higher rate of cancer observed among workers at PWCS's Kooragang facility is most likely due to chance. The correspondence stated that PWCS intends to implement all recommendations in the report and that progress is well advanced.</p> <p>A Committee Member asked why PWCS commissioned the study. An Industry Representative explained that PWCS commissioned the study in response to the concerns of its workers.</p> <p>The Chair noted the information for the Committee's consideration. Issues may be raised for further discussion at a future meeting.</p>

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
<p><b>Item 9</b></p>	<p><b>General Business</b></p> <p><b>Online Publication of Presentations at NCCCE Community Forums</b>  NCCCE discussed the OEH/EPA online publishing protocol which prohibits the publication of presentations from EPA and non-EPA presenters at NCCCE community forums. Committee members acknowledged that online publication involves management of copyright issues.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION 4: NCCCE request that the Minister reviews the protocols for publication, on the Committee’s OEH website, of slide presentations from NCCCE Community Forums.</b></p> <p><b>Former Gas Works Site</b>  A Committee Member raised community concern regarding the former Hamilton gasworks site. Local residents observed water runoff, with a rainbow sheen, typical of oil on water, flowing from the site into the Styx Creek stormwater channel.</p> <p>NCCCE’s Council Representative provided a brief history of the site works and management. The site is registered as significantly contaminated, under the <i>NSW Contaminated Land Management Act 1997</i>. Mr Gilligan noted that the site is managed under a Voluntary Management Proposal and is contaminated with hydrocarbons, arsenic and lead.</p> <p><b>ACTION 2: EPA to email to NCCCE the link to the EPA webpage for the notice of approval for a Voluntary Management Proposal for the former Hamilton gasworks site.</b></p>
<p><b>Item 10</b></p>	<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Date:</b> Wednesday 12 December 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>
<p><b>Meeting ended at 19:55</b></p>	

## ACTION ITEM LOG

MEETING NO. 13, 5 NOVEMBER 2012	ACTION ITEM DESCRIPTION/ RECOMMENDATION	DUE DATE	RESP
RECOMMENDATION 1	That the EPA informs NCCCE on future developments in public communications strategies.		
RECOMMENDATION 2	That the EPA and the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Robyn Parker MP, note that the NCCCE extends an open invitation to the Minister to attend meetings of the NCCCE.		
RECOMMENDATION 3	The NCCCE recommends the location of air quality monitoring stations at the three sites which best meet the assessment criteria at Mayfield, Carrington and Stockton. The NCCCE recommends that the OEH further investigates a more suitable option for a site at Fern Bay.		
RECOMMENDATION 4	NCCCE requests that the Minister reviews the protocols for publication, on the Committee's OEH website, of slide presentations from NCCCE Community Forums.		
ACTION 1	Chair to advise the Minister of NCCCE's proposal to dispatch the draft correspondence to relevant authorities on issues of community concern.	ASAP	Chair
ACTION 2	EPA to email to NCCCE the link to the EPA webpage for the notice of approval for a Voluntary Management Proposal for the former Hamilton gasworks site.	12 Dec	EPA