

**MEETING No. 24**  
**Newcastle Community Consultative Committee on the Environment**  
**(NCCCE)**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** 12 February 2014 **Time:** 5:30 pm

**File:** EF13/8723

**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), Paul McBain (Minister’s Nominee), Paul Thomas (Industry), Zoe Rogers (Environment), Gary Davey (EPA Director North), Mitchell Bennett (EPA Acting Manager Hunter Region), Leanne Graham (EPA Project Officer)

**Guest Speaker** Barry Buffier (EPA CEO and Chair)

**Meeting Record**

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> The Chair welcomed Committee Members and EPA CEO and staff.
<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Apologies</b> None.
<b>Item 3</b>	<b>Minutes from Previous Meeting</b> Zoe Rogers requested minor amendments to the draft minutes. Minutes of Meeting No.23 (13 November 2013), incorporating the requested amendments, were adopted as a true and accurate record.
<b>Item 4</b>	<b>Actions Arising from Previous Meetings</b> <u>Meeting No.23 (13Nov13) Action 1:</u> Completed 06/12/13. EPA circulated to NCCCE factsheet summarising final report on Upper Hunter Valley Fine Particle Characterisation Study. <u>Meeting No.23 (13Nov13) Action 2:</u> In progress. EPA preparing a timeline of EPA air quality projects approved for 2014-2015, incorporating any implications for NCCCE. <u>Meeting No.23 (13Nov13) Action 3:</u> Completed 29/01/14. EPA organised an independently facilitated planning session for NCCCE, to prioritise actions for 2014-05. <u>Meeting No.23 (13Nov13) Action 4:</u> Commenced 25/11/14. Mr McBain initiated NCCCE subcommittee to gather information on water quality management studies, roles and responsibilities in the Lower Hunter.

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
Item 5	<p><b>EPA, Air Quality and the ARTC</b></p> <p>Mr Buffier provided an overview of the EPA's actions to improve air quality in general and specifically to mitigate dust impacts of activities associated with coal mining. Mr Buffer also addressed allegations reported in the media regarding the EPA's responses to the ARTC dust studies. The allegations arose from the interpretation of information derived from material obtained under the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i> (GIPA Act).</p> <p>Mr Buffier highlighted the EPA's environmental achievements and noted the further studies being undertaken to determine the value of covering coal wagons. Mr Buffier also noted that the EPA had engaged Prof Louise Ryan (UTS) to re-analyse the data collected in the earlier ARTC study. Mr Buffier proposed that Prof Ryan presents the findings of her review to a meeting in Newcastle convened by NCCCE.</p> <p>NCCCE members then discussed the issues and allegations raised in the media reports. A number of views were expressed. The Chair concluded that the discussion demonstrated the complexity of the issues and the importance of stating clear objectives and managing expectations.</p> <p>The NCCCE expressed interest in receiving a presentation by Prof Ryan at a meeting of NCCCE and invited guests, in consultation with ARTC.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the EPA and NCCCE for their contributions and encouraged all stakeholders to stay focused and be open in discussion.</p>
Item 6	<p><b>Outcomes of the Facilitated Planning Session held 29 January 2014 - Committee's Priorities for Action in 2014/15</b></p> <p>Mr Bennett opened the discussion on NCCCE's priorities for action, identified at the facilitated workshop. NCCCE's top 7 of 14 priorities are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advise on effective means of information delivery to community</li> <li>2. Noise regulation report to NCCCE</li> <li>3. Identify strategies to increase the reach of messages on NCCCE issues</li> <li>4. Facilitate knowledge transfer between community and EPA</li> <li>5. Community empowerment to contact NCCCE and EPA to increase accountability</li> <li>6. Establish a knowledge transfer process between community and EPA independent of NCCCE into the future</li> <li>7. Maintain pressure on EPA for timely deliver the Newcastle air quality monitoring network.</li> </ol> <p>Mr McBain added issues of interest raised previously in 2013, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate water quality issues</li> <li>• Improve communications between community and industry</li> <li>• Investigate contaminated sites issues.</li> </ul> <p>NCCCE agreed to dedicate regular slot on the agenda of each meeting to discuss one or two priority issues.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed the NCCCE's intention to work progressively through the 14 issues and to incorporate the issues raised previously.</p> <p><b>ACTION 1: EPA to circulate to NCCCE a proposed timeline of priorities for future meetings.</b></p> <p>The Chair thanked Committee members and the EPA for their contributions.</p>

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
Item 7	<p><b>Changes to the EPA Requirements for Publishing Pollution Monitoring Data</b></p> <p>Mr Davey provided a summary of the recent review of the EPA requirements for publishing of pollution monitoring data by industries holding environment protection licences (licensees).</p> <p>The requirement for licensees to make publicly available any monitoring data commenced on 31 March 2012 with a commitment to review this after 12 months. This review has now been completed and the EPA published the revised requirements in January 2014. Key changes involved clarifying meanings and adding details, rather than changing fundamental requirements,</p> <p>The Chair thanked Mr Davey for the presentation and confirmed that the information was received and noted.</p> <p><b>ACTION 2: EPA to report back to NCCCE on the definition of ‘working day’ referred to in the EPA’s <i>Requirements for publishing pollution monitoring data</i>.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION 3: EPA to distribute to NCCCE members the slide presentation on changes to EPA requirements for publication of monitoring data by industries holding environment protection licences.</b></p>
Item 8	<p><b>General Business</b></p> <p>The Chair noted the EPA’s commitment to establish the three new sites in Newcastle’s air quality monitoring network by August 2014. The Chair thanked NCCCE members past and present for their contribution to this major achievement.</p> <p>The Chair opened discussion on a potential source of particulate matter in rail corridors. The Chair described the function of a device, fitted to locomotives, which releases sand to provide traction between a locomotive’s drive wheels and the rail line.</p> <p><b>ACTION 4: EPA to report to NCCCE on the nature of the material used in a locomotives’ sandbox device and its potential as a source of particulate matter emitted into the rail corridor.</b></p> <p>The Chair thanked Committee members and the EPA for their contributions.</p>
Item 9	<p><b>Next Meetings</b></p> <p><b>Date:</b> Wednesday 12 March 2014.</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 7:40 pm</b></p>	

**ACTION ITEM LOG**

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION		DUE	RESP
<b>MEETING NO. 24, 12 February 2014</b>			
1	EPA to circulate to NCCCE a proposed timeline of priorities for future meetings.	12/03/14	EPA
2	EPA to report back to NCCCE on the definition of 'working day' referred to in the EPA's <i>Requirements for publishing pollution monitoring data</i> .	12/03/14	EPA
3	EPA to distribute to NCCCE members the slide presentation on changes to EPA requirements for publication of monitoring data by industries holding environment protection licences.	12/03/14	EPA
4	EPA to report to NCCCE on the nature of the material used in a locomotives' sandbox device and its potential as a source of particulate matter emitted into the rail corridor.	12/03/14	EPA