

MEETING No. 27
Newcastle Community Consultative Committee on the Environment
(NCCCE)

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 11 June 2014 **Time:** 5:30 pm

File: EF13/8723

Location: Mine Subsidence Board, Meeting Room, Ground Floor,
 117 Bull Street, Newcastle West

In attendance: John Tate (Chair), Rick Banyard (Community) Keith Craig (Community), Adam Gilligan (Newcastle City Council), Nick Godfrey-Smith (Industry), Paul McBain (Minister’s Nominee), Paul Thomas (Industry), Zoe Rogers (Environment), Sherree Woodroffe (Industry) Mitchell Bennett (EPA Acting Manager Hunter Region), Leanne Graham (EPA Project Officer)

Guests Sylvia Bell (EPA Director Stakeholder Engagement and Governance (SEG)), Gareth Jones (EPA Senior Atmospheric Scientist), Daniel Helm (EPA Technical Policy Advisor) Frank Garofalow (EPA Manager Infrastructure, Metro)

Meeting Record

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
Item 1	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>The Chair welcomed committee members and guests and introduced the new committee members, Sherree Woodroffe (Industry) and Rick Banyard (Community).</p>
Item 2	<p>Apologies</p> <p>None.</p>
Item 3	<p>Minutes from Previous Meeting</p> <p>Meeting Minutes No.26, held 9 April 2014, were adopted as a true and accurate record.</p>
Item 4	<p>Actions Arising from Previous Meetings</p> <p>No outstanding actions.</p>
Item 5	<p>NCCCE’s Priority Action No.1 in 2014: Part 1:</p> <p><i>Advise on effective means of delivering factual, concise, timely information on air quality that the community can understand and act on</i></p> <p>Mr Jones outlined the EPA’s Air Emissions Inventory and demonstrated My Community Web-Tool, the EPA’s new initiative to deliver to the community factual information on air emissions.</p>

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	<p>The Air Emissions Inventory and My Community Web-Tool may be viewed on the EPA website at</p> <p>http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/air/airinventory.htm</p> <p>http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/air/airemissionsinmycommunity.htm</p> <p>Mr Jones made the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EPA's Air Emissions Inventory (AEI) is a detailed list of pollutants discharged into the atmosphere from a comprehensive range of human and natural source types, during a given time period and specific locations across the Greater Metropolitan Region (GMR). The GMR includes most of the Hunter and Illawarra regions and 75% of NSW's population. • The AEI is a major source of evidence-based information used to formulate EPA air quality management policies. • Compared with the National Pollution Inventory, the AEI is more comprehensive, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a greater range of substances including toxics; ○ a larger number of industrial facilities; ○ diffuse emission sources including motor vehicles; domestic wood heating; aerosol and solvent use; and lawn mowing; and natural sources including bushfires and marine aerosols; and ○ a high level of temporal and spatial detail, including hourly and seasonal variation at a scale of a 1 kilometre square. • The EPA updates the AEI every 5 years. The EPA website provides data for 2003 and 2008 calendar years and will publish data for 2013 by December 2015, which will include estimates of nitrogen oxides created by lightning. • Emission estimation techniques draw on state of the art methods used in the USA, Europe and Australia • Information gathering includes detailed industry and household surveys, energy and production statistics and traffic modelling • The AEI provides data used in atmospheric dispersion modelling including the prediction of photochemical air pollution • AEI information may be accessed from of web-based resources targeting a hierarchy of users, including an inventory brochure for the general public; the web-tool for the general public and air quality professionals; and Excel Workbooks, inventory reports and custom data requests for air quality professionals. • My Community Web-Tool presents data from the AEI using selectable options for a variety of interactive charts, 17 substances, 63 source activities, and geographical areas down to post code level, based on 2008 emissions.

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	<p>In response to questions Mr Jones noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AEI is the most comprehensive and up-to-date inventory in Australia; • Shipping logs provide data including details of vessel activities in shipping lanes near the entrance of the major NSW ports; and • 2013 AEI will incorporate data from new locomotives in service since 2008 <p>The Chair thanked for Mr Jones for the presentation and demonstration.</p> <p>Action 1: EPA to provide NCCCE with slide presentation on the EPA Air Emissions Inventory and My Community Web-Tool.</p> <p>Ms Bell provided an update on EPA's new initiatives to deliver to the community factual information on air quality. Main points include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The website homepages of the EPA and the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) feature the current air quality and the air quality forecast for Sydney, presented in terms of the NSW air quality index. Similar information for NSW's nine regions will be available on these homepages shortly. The website homepages currently provide links to current air quality, forecasts and alerts. • The Lower Hunter Community Research Project (LHCRP) by Macquarie University has surveyed and interviewed a wide demographic sample of the community, aiming to gather community preferences for the types of factual information and preferred methods for receiving information on air quality. EPA expects to receive the final report by late June 2014. • Studies aimed at gathering factual information on air quality include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Lower Hunter Dust Deposition Project - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Project Proposal was developed by the Project Reference Team, which consists of two community representatives, two industry representatives, two technical experts and an EPA officer from public affairs and an EPA officer from regional operations ▪ Deliverables include a literature review, a methodology paper which will be subject to peer and community reviews, dust collection and brush sampling, and analysis for coal content. ▪ The 12 month sampling period is expected to commence in August 2014. • Projects aimed at providing factual information on air quality include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Air Quality App – EPA is working with OEH to determine the most appropriate technology for displaying NSW air quality on a mobile device. ○ The EPA's Stakeholder Newsletter – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The online downloadable format will be launched shortly and will include updates from the EPA's community committees; ▪ First edition features NCCCE contribution by Chair John Tate ▪ Stakeholders may subscribe to the newsletter.

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	<p>In discussion, the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orica researched the information preferences of its local community. For example, the Orica Kooragang Island Community Newsletter April-May 2014 is dedicated to emergency response. • The findings of the LHCRP will inform the EPA's decisions on the most effective means of communicating with the various interest groups in the community. <p>The Chair thanked Ms Bell for providing an update on the EPA's progress in improving the EPA's communications with stakeholders on air quality issues.</p> <p>Action 2: EPA to provide NCCCE with a summary of the different roles and responsibilities of the Environment Protection Authority and the Office of Environment and Heritage</p> <p>Action 3: EPA to circulate to NCCCE the web link to Orica Kooragang Island's Community Newsletter for April-May 2014, dedicated to emergency management.</p> <p>Action 4: EPA to report back on findings of the LHCRP and EPA's response regarding community preferences for the type of factual information on air quality and methods for delivery.</p>
Item 6	<p>A Community Critique of NSW Minerals Council's Wind Tunnel Study of Coal Dust from Trains</p> <p>Ms Rogers introduced a summary of the issues identified by local community and environment groups, in response to the coal dust wind tunnel study, presented by the NSW Mineral Council (NSWMC) at the NCCCE Meeting No.26, held on 9 April 2014.</p> <p>Community consultation included, but was not limited to, the Correct Planning and Consultation for Mayfield Group, the Coal Terminal Action Group and the Hunter Community Environment Centre (HCEC).</p> <p>Mr Banyard made the following points about the study methodologies, taking into account revisions made to the study proposal by the NSWMC or its consultants since the NCCCE meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The questionnaire is voluntary and with no scope for independent or third-party verification of responses. • It is unclear whether the complete range of feasible or real-life scenarios will be tested, including actual worst-case scenarios that occur along the Hunter coal chain. • The wind tunnel simulations will not be representative of actual dust losses on coal wagons under typical conditions, because of the following factors: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The purpose of the wind tunnel is limited to comparing veneer and water spray trials, using fine fraction dust particles less than 63 micrometres diameter. Consequently, the study does not simulate dust loss under real conditions, with all size fractions in the entire load.

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	<p>2. It is unclear if different profiles of the coal surface within the wagon will be tested and whether this would be worth testing, given that the coarse fractions are excluded. Not all loads are profiled and not all profiles are similar.</p> <p>3. There is no “standard coal”, therefore testing samples will be limited to the results of each sample and in practice that sample may be replicated rarely.</p> <p>4. The cross winds to be studied in the revised proposal are not likely to replicate the highly variable and complex cross winds that occur along the coal corridor for any given coal train journey, in terms of angle, speed, elevation and direction.</p> <p>5. The wind tunnel does not replicate dust losses associated with the effects of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overfilling of coal wagons, ▪ Variable wagon design and aerodynamics, ▪ Hinged doors at the bottom of wagons, ▪ Vibration of coal wagons, ▪ Passing trains, ▪ Highly variable train speeds and wind directions during a journey, ▪ Tracks that are not at natural grade, e.g. cuttings and viaducts, and ▪ Bridges, tunnels and other infrastructure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In summary, the chief purpose of these tests is limited to demonstrate the efficacy of different types of veneering and rates of water spraying. • HCEC recommended that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The NSWMC and its consultants take this feedback into account and continue to consult with community stakeholders about the project. 2. The EPA notes the above feedback about the NSWMC study. <p>In discussion, Mr Banyard noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSWMC representatives joined community members for a site inspection of the rail corridor, • NSWMC modified the study method in response to community suggestions, • Concerned community members will keep working with NSWMC consultants. <p>NCCCE members commended the collaborative work of the community and NSWMC and re-iterated that better outcomes are achieved when the community is involved in the study design stage of research projects.</p> <p>NCCCE Chair noted the report and thanked Ms Rogers and Mr Banyard.</p> <p>Action 5: EPA to re-circulate to NCCCE the email sent to community attendees of NCCCE Meeting No.25, held on 12 March 2014, advising of how to obtain photos of the coal in the rail corridor, provided to the EPA by the Correct Planning and Consultation for Mayfield Group.</p>

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Item 7	<p>Update on EPA Lower Hunter Air Quality Projects</p> <p>7.1. Air Quality Monitoring Network</p> <p>Mr Bennett provided an update on the construction of the air quality monitoring stations (AQMS) and the regulation of the network. OEHL has ordered materials for the construction of the Carrington AQMS. The EPA received the independent review of the cost effectiveness of the industry-funded air quality monitoring network and is preparing the draft Regulation and Regulatory Impact Statement for public exhibition.</p> <p>Action 6. EPA to provide to NCCCE further detail on the public exhibition period for the draft Regulation for the industry-funded air quality monitoring network for the Newcastle port and inner suburbs.</p> <p>7.2. Lower Hunter and Lake Macquarie-Wyong Monthly Air Quality Reports</p> <p>The EPA has published the Lower Hunter monthly air quality report for September 2013 and will continue to publish the reports as received. Discussions continue regarding monthly air quality reports for Lake Macquarie and Wyong.</p> <p>7.3. Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study</p> <p>Mr Craig reported that the sampling program continues, as planned. OEHL is preparing the first progress report to provide an overview of the study area and methodology.</p> <p>Action 7. EPA to provide to NCCCE further details on the publication of the first progress report of the Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study.</p>
Item 8	<p>General Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Craig enquired about the EPA's response to community complains about dust from the grain terminal. Mr Bennett took the question on notice. <p>Action 8. EPA to provide to NCCCE an update on the EPA's response to community complains about dust from the grain terminal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to a question from Mr McBain, the Chair advised that he intended to contact the new Minister for the Environment, to introduce himself as NCCCE Chair. The EPA has advised the Minister that he is welcome to attend a meeting of NCCCE. • In response to a question from Mr McBain, Mr Garofalow advised that the EPA is planning a public review of how the EPA regulates the rail operations in the coal supply chain. <p>Action 9. EPA to provide to NCCCE an update on opportunities for NCCCE involvement the public review of rail operations in the coal supply chain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Godfrey-Smith and Sherree Woodroffe confirmed that Port Waratah Coal Services and Orica each had published 2013 Sustainable Development Reports. Community feedback is welcomed.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Gilligan commended Orica’s recently published community newsletter on emergency response planning, noting the simplified presentation of complex scenarios. Ms Woodroffe confirmed that Orica researched community preferences for the content and means of receiving information on Orica’s Kooragang operations. <p>Action 10. EPA to provide to NCCCE the web link to the community newsletter recently published by Orica, which addresses emergency response planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Gilligan informed the NCCCE of two current investigations by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To examine local government compliance and enforcement activity, including regulatory powers delegated under NSW legislation. Newcastle Council’s best practice methods are recommended for state-wide adoption. To examine all licence types in NSW and identify those where reform would produce the greatest reduction in regulatory burden for business and the community. <p>Action 11. EPA to provide to NCCCE the web link to relevant investigations by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal into regulation of industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Garofalow confirmed that the EPA received information from ARTC on the nature and operation of locomotive sandboxes. The operation of the sandboxes occurs rarely and involves the release of eight grams of material per sandbox. <p>Action 12. EPA to provide to NCCCE the ARTC report on the nature and operation of locomotive sandboxes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In response to other discussion, the EPA agreed to provide a list of relevant acronyms to NCCCE. <p>Action 13. EPA to distribute to NCCCE a list of relevant commonly used acronyms.</p>
Item 9	<p>Next Meetings</p> <p>Date: Wednesday 9 July 2014.</p> <p>Location: EPA Conference Room, Ground Floor, 117 Bull Street, Newcastle West</p> <p>Time: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm</p>
<p>Meeting ended at 8:00 pm</p>	

ACTION ITEM LOG

MEETING NO. 27, 11 June 2014 - ACTION / RECOMMENDATION		DUE	RESP
1	EPA to provide NCCCE with slide presentation on the EPA Air Emissions Inventory and My Community Web-Tool	9 Jul 2014	EPA Hunter
2	EPA to provide NCCCE with a summary of the different roles and responsibilities of the Environment Protection Authority and the Office of Environment and Heritage.	9 Jul 2014	EPA SEG
3	EPA to circulate to NCCCE the web link to Orica Kooragang Island's Community Newsletter for April-May 2014, dedicated to emergency management.	9 Jul 2014	EPA Hunter
4	EPA to report back on findings of the LHCRP and EPA's response regarding community preferences for the type of factual information on air quality and methods for delivery	9 Jul 2014	EPA SEG
5	EPA to re-circulate to NCCCE the email sent to community attendees of NCCCE Meeting No.25, held on 12 March 2014, at Panthers Club, advising of how to obtain photos of the coal in the rail corridor, provided to the EPA by the Correct Planning and Consultation for Mayfield Group.	9 Jul 2014	EPA Hunter
6	EPA to provide to NCCCE further detail on the public exhibition period for the draft Regulation and Regulatory Impact Statement for the industry-funded air quality monitoring network for the Newcastle port and inner suburbs.	9 Jul 2014	EPA Hunter
7	EPA to provide to NCCCE further details on the publication of the first progress report of the Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study.	9 Jul 2014	EPA Hunter
8	EPA to update NCCCE on the EPA's response to community complains about dust from the grain terminal.	9 Jul 2014	EPA Hunter
9	EPA to update NCCCE on opportunities for NCCCE involvement the public review of rail operations in the coal supply chain.	9 Jul 2014	EPA Metro
10	EPA to provide to NCCCE the web link to relevant investigations by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal into regulation of industry.	9 Jul 2014	EPA Hunter
11	EPA to provide to NCCCE a report on the nature and operation of locomotive sandboxes.	9 Jul 2014	EPA Metro
12	EPA to distribute to NCCCE a list of relevant commonly used acronyms.	9 Jul 2014	EPA Hunter