

MEETING No. 29
Newcastle Community Consultative Committee on the Environment
(NCCCE)

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 13 August 2014 **Time:** 5:30 pm

File: EF13/8723

Location: EPA Conference Room, Ground Floor,
117 Bull Street, Newcastle West

In attendance: John Tate (Chair), Rick Banyard (Community), Keith Craig (Community), Nick Godfrey-Smith (Industry), Paul McBain (Minister's Nominee), Paul McMurray (Newcastle City Council), Zoe Rogers (Environment), Paul Thomas (Industry), Sherree Woodroffe (Industry) Carmen Dwyer (EPA A/Director North) Adam Gilligan (EPA Manager Hunter Region), Leanne Graham (EPA Project Officer)

Guests Greg Holmes, General Manager, Orica Kooragang Island
Kieran Lynch, EPA A/Manager Compliance and Assurance

Apologies Nil

Meeting Record

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
Item 1	Welcome and Introductions The Chair welcomed committee members and introduced Mr Holmes, Mr Lynch and Mr McMurray.
Item 2	Apologies Nil
	NCCCE supported the Chair's suggestion that members consider the agenda items in a revised order, to accommodate for time constraints of guest speakers.
Item 3	Orica Environmental Improvement Program – Past and Future Works Mr Holmes outlined Orica's achievements in providing mining services globally and in improving environmental performance of its Kooragang Island plant, particularly since the environmental incidents of 2010 and 2011. Key points included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orica is the world's largest provider of commercial explosives for mining and infrastructure markets with 28% market share, • Orica ranks in the top 50 companies on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) by market capitalisation (total value of issued shares), • Orica employs 14,000 people in 50 countries, with customers in over 100 countries, • Kooragang Island plant manufactures ammonia, nitric acid and ammonium nitrate,

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-2011 environmental improvement programs reduced ammonia and nitrate discharges to the effluent system and atmosphere. Upgrades to bunding further improved the quality of effluent and stormwater discharges. Noise was reduced, • Six environmental incidents in 2010/2011 led to organisational and management restructure to achieve world class maintenance practices, improvements to site management systems and processes to focus on safety and operations standards, accelerated investment in plant improvement and broad community engagement to build communication channels and relationships, • Post 2011 activities included redesigning the ammonia plant to prevent a repeat of the August 2011 event, and upgraded computerised instrumentation and alarms, • Key activities for 2014 include reduction of pressurised ammonia storage, improved ammonia detection and isolation capacity, further upgrades to bunding and drainage and commencement of an ammonia flare installation (pending project approval), • Key activities in community engagement include a Community Reference Group which meets quarterly, a community newsletter by letter box and email, site tours, information sessions, meetings with neighbouring industries and community facilities and community investments providing grants and sponsorships. <p>In response to questions Mr Holmes confirmed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New management standards and control systems reduced risks significantly, • Orica's community survey in 2013 identified a preference for community newsletters which are now distributed to almost seven thousand households in Stockton, Fern Bay, Tighes Hill and Mayfield and receive positive feedback, • Environmental improvement works took into account all the findings of EPA audit and complemented in-house improvements to processes and safety systems, • Communicating the achievements of the environmental improvement programs by face to face discussion between managers, visiting experts and the community has helped to build trust and reduce community concern regarding potential risks, • Clear roles and responsibilities for staff in a simplified management structure, and at 20% lower running costs, allowed continuous improvement in the performance of the plant and human resources, by measuring and responding to new key performance indicators. <p>The Chair thanked Mr Holmes for providing insight into the depth of management improvements at Orica.</p>
<p>Item 4</p>	<p>EPA Compliance Audit Program for Coal Trains</p> <p>Mr Lynch outlined the EPA Compliance Audit Program and its role within the EPA's Regulatory System and Compliance Policy. The Audit Program supports environmental legislation and licensing of industrial premises, which together deliver continuous improvement in environmental performance.</p> <p>Key points in the Audit Program for coal train loading and unloading include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site inspections of 15 premises completed across NSW, including 11 coal train loading facilities, 10 of which load coal for transport to the port of Newcastle. In addition, four coal export terminals, three in Newcastle and one in Port Kembla, were audited in relation to the unloading of coal from trains. • Focus on maintenance and operation of plant and equipment to minimise coal spills,

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary findings identified potential for coal spills from tops of wagons and wagon doors; coal deposited on wagon exteriors and bogies; and coal remaining in unloaded wagons, • Audit reports are being drafted currently and will be sent to industry for comment. Final individual reports, including industry comments, will be available on the EPA's Public Register and a summary report will be published on the EPA website. <p>The Chair introduced Ms Carmen Dwyer, EPA A/Director North, on her arrival.</p> <p>In response to questions, Mr Lynch noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA conducts desktop audits and site audits of higher risk industries, in response to priorities identified by the EPA and community groups such as the Correct Planning and Consultation for Mayfield Group (CPCMG), • The Audit's findings are part of a systematic process to gather information on maintenance and operation practices, rather than to gather evidence for prosecution, • The final reports will recommend actions for improving environmental performance. <p>The Chair thanked Mr Lynch and commended EPA for responding to CPCMG concerns.</p>
<p>Item 5</p>	<p>Minutes from Previous Meeting</p> <p>Meeting Minutes No.28, held 9 July 2014, incorporating amendments, were adopted as a true and accurate record.</p>
<p>Item 6</p>	<p>Actions Arising from Previous Meetings</p> <p><u>Meeting No.27 (11Jun14) Action 2:</u> Update due 10/09/14. EPA provided a handout on Acts administered by the EPA and the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), pending an outline of the different roles of EPA and OEH in air quality monitoring and management.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.27 (11Jun14) Action 4:</u> Update due 10/09/14. EPA to report back on findings of the Lower Hunter Community Research Project and EPA's response regarding community preferences for the type of factual information on air quality and methods for delivery.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.27 (11Jun14) Action 8:</u> Completed 13/08/14. EPA updated NCCCE on EPA's response to community complaints about dust from the grain terminal. The Newcastle Agri Terminal (NAT), at Carrington loaded its first vessel in February 2014. EPA's Environment Line received one complaint, with two further enquiries directly to EPA's Hunter Region office, relating to dust emissions from loading of wheat into the vessel. On 18 February 2014, EPA inspected the NAT premises during the loading of the vessel. During this inspection, NAT were working to resolve dust emissions from several sources in the loading system, as part of the commissioning process. EPA advised NAT to ensure that operations complied with its Environment Protection Licence and the Protection of the Environment Operations Act, before loading the next vessel. Since February, another vessel has been loaded and EPA received no complaints.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.27 (11Jun14) Action 9:</u> Update due 10/09/14. EPA is preparing a Position Paper on rail operations in the coal supply chain. EPA will notify NCCCE directly when the paper is released for a public review period of five weeks.</p>

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	<p><u>Meeting No.27 (11Jun14) Action 10:</u> Completed 14/07/14. EPA emailed to NCCCE the web link to relevant investigations by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal into regulation of industry.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.27 (11Jun14) Action 11:</u> Update 13/08/14. EPA provided a briefing to NCCCE on the use of sandboxes by rail operators.</p> <p>In response to the concerns raised by the NCCCE and the Correct Planning and Consultation for Mayfield Group (CPCFM), the EPA issued notices to ARTC and rail operators to provide information and records on the use of sandboxes including how the amount of dust being emitted from the sandboxes is monitored and minimised and if environmental risks have been assessed. EPA summarised the findings, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of sand is limited to times when traction is impeded, • The sand is coarse beach sand, 200 to 500 millimetres diameter, washed and dried, • The application standard is 500 grams/minute/per sandbox. Most applications last 1 to 5 seconds with approximately 8 grams/second/sandbox, • The volume of sand stored depends on locomotive class e.g. Hunter Valley Pacific National locomotives typically have 4 to 6 sandboxes storing 0.5 cubic metres, • The EPA is assessing potential impacts in a literature review into best-practice management of air emissions in the rail corridor. <p><u>Meeting No.27 (11Jun14) Action 12:</u> Update 13/08/14. EPA distributed to NCCCE a draft list of relevant commonly used acronyms for comment at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.28 (9Jul14) Action 1:</u> Completed 13/08/14. NCCCE supported nomination of Sherree Woodroffe as alternate NCCCE representative on the Project Management Team for the Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study. EPA informed OEH Project Manager.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.28 (9Jul14) Action 2:</u> Completed 13/08/14. EPA updated NCCCE on EPA's response to community complaints about recent naphthalene odours.</p> <p>In June 2014, the EPA met with Koppers Carbon Materials and Chemicals Pty Ltd (Koppers) to discuss odour issues. Koppers prepared two Pollution Reduction Programs (PRPs) to reduce vapour emissions: first, to install additional nitrogen blanketing on the naphthalene tank farm; and, second, to install a fume recovery system at the Mayfield No. 6 Berth, to treat displaced odours from ship loading of carbon black feedstock oil. The PRP works are scheduled to be completed by early 2015.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.28 (9Jul14) Action 3:</u> Completed 13/08/14. EPA responded to documents tabled by NCCCE regarding community concerns for environmental management of Hexham swamp.</p> <p>On 28 July 2014, the EPA issued to Aurizon an Environment Protection Licence (EPL) for its train support facility at Hexham. The EPL imposed conditions requiring that the coal stockpile dam be filled in, to limit ongoing contamination of groundwater from the coal stockpile. The EPL requires comprehensive surface and groundwater sampling programs and that no water be allowed to leave the site unless it meets s120 of the POEO Act, which sets background levels for water quality. Consequently, most of the surface water that accumulates on the site will be used for on-site irrigation. Once construction activities at the premises are completed, Aurizon will no longer be required to hold an EPL.</p>

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	<p>Any application for the surrender of the EPL will involve an assessment of the site to ensure that there are no ongoing pollution issues occurring as a result of the development. The EPA may impose conditions of surrender to manage ongoing environmental issues.</p> <p>EPA recently varied the EPL of Brancourts, operators of the former Oak Factory at Hexham. The EPL includes a PRP that requires investigation of the ongoing sustainability of wastewater irrigation of the premises.</p> <p>The EPA's Contaminated Sites Section wrote to a concerned community member in letters dated 8 May 2014 and 16 July 2014. The EPA determined that the contamination at the site is not significant enough to warrant regulation under the <i>Contaminated Land Management Act</i>.</p>
Item 7	<p>Update on EPA Lower Hunter Air Quality Projects</p> <p>Mr Gilligan provided an update on the following projects.</p> <p>7.1. Newcastle Local Air Quality Monitoring Network</p> <p>Environment Minister Rob Stokes launched the Network on 7 August 2014 at the Carrington air quality monitoring station. Mr Gilligan noted that NCCCE was well represented at the launch and thanked members who were able to attend. Mr Gilligan noted that the Minister and NCCCE Chair both spoke very well at the launch. The EPA continues to develop the draft Newcastle Air Monitoring Regulation. Negotiations continue to transfer Orica's Stockton air monitoring station to the Network.</p> <p>7.2. Lower Hunter Community Research Project</p> <p>EPA received Macquarie University's draft report this month, on how best to integrate EPA air pollution education and information programs. Ms Sylvia Bell will report to NCCCE at the next meeting.</p> <p>7.3. Lower Hunter and Lake Macquarie-Wyong Monthly Air Quality Reports</p> <p>The EPA is preparing to publish Lower Hunter air quality reports for the months of October 2013 to May 2014. Mr Gilligan reiterated that the EPA agreed to fund the Lower Hunter monthly air quality reports pending the commissioning of the Newcastle Local Air Quality Monitoring Network, which commenced operation on 7 August 2014. In response to NCCCE requests, EPA has approved funding for Todoroski Air Sciences to prepare reports for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Lower Hunter for July 2014 and August 2014 (based on continuous monitoring at OEH operated sites at Newcastle, Wallsend, and Beresfield and industry operated sites at Stockton and Mayfield) and - Lake Macquarie – Wyong for July 2014 to June 2015, based on industry operated sites a Marks Point, Dora Creek, Lake Munmorah and Wyee, and the OEH operated site at Wyong. <p>OEH will commence quarterly reporting to NCCCE on the air quality results of OEH operated sites at Newcastle, Wallsend, Beresfield, Stockton, Carrington and Mayfield. The reports will include a seasonal analysis of weather conditions and influences on air quality. Mr Gilligan noted that the NCCCE would have the opportunity to provide feedback on the format of the first report.</p>

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	<p>7.4. Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study</p> <p>On 31 July 2014, OEH published the First Progress Report of the Study, at http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/aqms/lowhunterparticle.htm. EPA emailed the link to NCCCE on 31 July 2014. The Report outlines the design of the project, the methodology, the commissioning phase and records of the samples collected during the first quarter (Autumn period) of the one year sampling program. The comprehensive report includes photos of sites and sampling equipment.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Project Management Team will be held in Newcastle on 20 August 2014 and will include a site tour of sampling sites at the OEH air quality monitoring sites at Newcastle, Beresfield, Mayfield and the Orica site at Stockton.</p> <p>7.5. Lower Hunter Dust Deposition Study</p> <p>The Project Reference Group held an inception meeting with contractors AECOM Pty Ltd on 21 July 2014 and discussed the scope, methodology and timing of the project. EPA prepared a Fact Sheet which describes the purpose of the study and how samples will be collected and the criteria for siting dust deposition gauges. In response to questions, Mr Gilligan noted that the localities recommended for the sampling sites were based on the distribution and frequency of areas identified in EPA Environment Line dust complaints, over the last two or three years, as well as sites along the rail corridor. The Fact Sheet invites residents in suburbs identified to get involved by hosting a sampling site. The Project Reference Group invited NCCCE members to use their community networks to talk to residents in the recommended localities, to identify those who may be interested in hosting gauges for 12 months. The Group emphasised the importance of getting the sampling sites operational as soon as possible.</p> <p>Action 1: EPA to provide to NCCCE the Fact Sheet of the Lower Hunter Dust Deposition Study and map of recommended localities for sampling sites, for circulation to residents likely to be interested in hosting a sampling site.</p>
Item 8	<p>General Business</p> <p>Mr Craig enquired about the scope of the Hunter River water quality monitoring project to be funded by the penalty recently handed to Orica by the Land and Environment Court for pollution incidents in 2011. The EPA agreed to distribute the list of projects proposed to be funded by the penalty.</p> <p>Action 2. EPA to provide to NCCCE the package of project plans to be funded by the penalty recently handed to Orica by the Land and Environment Court for pollution incidents in 2011.</p> <p>Mr Gilligan informed NCCCE that the National Environment Protection Council (NEPC) had released an impact statement and draft variation to the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure (Air NEPM), which sets the national standards for particles and provides guidance on monitoring air quality. NSW EPA had played a key role in chairing working groups involved in the review of the Air NEPM standards for particulate matter. The impact statement and further information including consultation processes are available from the NEPC website, http://www.nepc.gov.au/, with submissions open until 10 October 2014.</p>

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Item 9	<p>Next Meeting Date: Wednesday 10 September 2014. Location: EPA Conference Room, Ground Floor, 117 Bull Street, Newcastle West Time: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm</p>
<p>Meeting ended at 7:40 pm</p>	

ACTION ITEM LOG

MEETING NO. 29, 13 August 2014 ACTION / RECOMMENDATION	DUE	RESP
<p>Action 1: EPA to provide to NCCCE the Fact Sheet of the Lower Hunter Dust Deposition Study and map of recommended localities for sampling sites, for circulation to residents likely to be interested in hosting a sampling site.</p>	<p>As soon as possible.</p>	<p>All.</p>
<p>Action 2. EPA to provide to NCCCE the package of project plans to be funded by the penalty recently handed to Orica by the Land and Environment Court for pollution incidents in 2011.</p>	<p>As soon as possible.</p>	<p>EPA</p>