

MEETING No. 31
Newcastle Community Consultative Committee on the Environment
(NCCCE)

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 8 October 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),
 Laura Harkins-Small (Industry), John Mackenzie (Environment),
 Terry McCauley (Community), Paul Thomas (Industry),
 Sherree Woodroffe (Industry),
 Gary Davey (EPA /Director North)
 Adam Gilligan (EPA Manager Hunter Region),
 Leanne Graham (EPA Project Officer)

Apologies Nick Godfrey-Smith (Industry), Paul McBain (Minister’s Nominee),
 Paul McMurray (Newcastle City Council), Zoe Rogers (Environment),

Meeting Record

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
Item 1	Welcome and Introductions Attendees were welcomed and deputy members introduced.
Item 2	Apologies As above.
Item 3	Minutes from Previous Meeting (10 September 2014) The previous minutes were adopted, pending approval by absent committee members.
Item 4	Actions Arising from Previous Meetings <u>Meeting No.27 (11Jun14) Action 2:</u> Ongoing. The EPA to seek NCCCE feedback on the document, issued on 10/09/14, summarising the roles and responsibilities of the EPA and the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) in monitoring and managing air quality. <u>Meeting No.27 (11Jun14) Action 4:</u> Completed 08/09/14. The EPA emailed NCCCE the position paper, <i>Review of regulation of ‘railway systems activities’ under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i> , proposing amendments to regulations for the rail industry under the POEO Act. Comments closed 08/10/14. The EPA will update NCCCE as the review progresses.

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
Item 4 Cont	<p><u>Meeting No.30 (10Sep14) Action 1:</u> Ongoing. 23/09/14 EPA emailed NCCCE the draft final report of the Lower Hunter Community Research Project, for discussion in Item 5 below. Feedback to researchers due before 26 October 2014.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.30 (10Sep14) Action 2:</u> Completed 10/10/14. EPA emailed NCCCE on 24/09/14, noting that the land transport of ammonium nitrate is regulated by the Australian Dangerous Goods Code (ADG7) which provides consistent technical requirements for the land transport of dangerous goods across Australia. An overview of Dangerous Goods legislative requirements is available at: http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/dangerousgoods/index.htm The Australian Dangerous Goods Code (including requirements for labelling and road routes) is available at: http://www.ntc.gov.au/heavy-vehicles/safety/australian-dangerous-goods-code/.</p> <p>Mr Davey advised that multiple agencies have responded to the ammonium nitrate incident at Charleville and the earlier tanker crash in Sydney. As a result, there will be a number of initiatives implemented to improve vehicle safety, road-worthiness and overall transport performance. Mr Gilligan advised that EPA is training staff from Roads and Maritime Services regarding dangerous goods compliance and transport.</p>
Item 5	<p>Findings of the Lower Hunter Community Research Project Report</p> <p>Mr Gilligan recapped the methods and the findings of the project, which investigated ways to improve community access to information on, and understanding of, air quality in the Lower Hunter region. NCCCE members received a confidential draft final report on 23/09/14, as members of the research cohort, with feedback to the researchers due before 26 October 2014. Specifically, the researchers asked NCCCE to suggest future initiatives and actions involving the Lower Hunter communities, industries and government pertaining to air quality.</p> <p>NCCCE discussed findings of interest in the report and options for EPA to implement, including greater engagement with schools.</p> <p>Mr Davey noted that EPA's Stakeholder and Engagement Branch will develop programs to improve communication on air quality issues.</p> <p>The Chair noted the presentation and thanked Mr Gilligan. In the absence of key committee members, who were part of the research cohort, the Chair deferred detailed discussion to the next meeting.</p> <p>Action 1: EPA to remind NCCCE members individually to provide feedback to researchers on the draft final report of the Lower Hunter Community Research Project Report, before 26 October 2014.</p> <p>Action 2: NCCCE to report back to the next meeting, to share feedback on the Lower Hunter Community Research Project Report.</p>
Item 6	<p>Where to From Here? (Review of NCCCE's Priority Actions in 2014)</p> <p>- Delivering Information on Air Quality and Broadening the Target Audience</p> <p>Mr Gilligan re-iterated NCCCE's priority actions for 2014-2015, which the committee members set at the independently facilitated planning session on 29 January 2014</p>

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
<p>Item 6 Cont</p>	<p>(i.e. advising on delivery of air quality information and broadening the target audience).</p> <p>Mr Gilligan listed EPA actions and initiatives in 2014 that aligned with NCCCE's priority actions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January: EPA website launched, with updates ongoing. • March: Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study commenced. • June: <i>My Community Web Tool</i> launched, providing access to EPA air emissions inventory; and <i>EPA Connect</i>, quarterly e-newsletter to stakeholders launched. • August: Newcastle Local Air Quality Monitoring Network launched, including online reporting • September: EPA Strategic Plan 2014-2017, launched, with key strategies including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Risk-based licensing system for POEO Act licensees, ○ National Clean Air Agreement, ○ Increasing assessment of contaminated sites, ○ Delivering information to stakeholders, ○ Delivering the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Strategy, allowing better engagement by web and other computerised systems. <p>The Chair thanked Mr Gilligan and requested a briefing for NCCCE on the Strategic Plan 2014-17.</p> <p>Mr Gilligan also referred to the current NSW parliamentary inquiry into the performance of the EPA, which provided an opportunity for public submissions. Mr Gilligan noted that one of approximately 300 submissions included comments about the NCCCE.</p> <p>Mr Craig recommended that the EPA prepares a summary of NCCCE's achievements, including the public forums on air quality, for publication on the NCCCE website.</p> <p>NCCCE agreed to defer further discussion until the next meeting, following the NCCCE's review of the draft final report of the Lower Hunter Community Research Project.</p> <p>NCCCE supported Mr Davey's suggestion that the EPA organises another independently facilitated planning session for NCCCE in early 2015.</p> <p>Action 3: EPA to email NCCCE an online link to the EPA Strategic Plan 2014-17.</p> <p>Action 4: EPA to organise a briefing for NCCCE on the EPA Strategic Plan 2014-17.</p> <p>Action 5: EPA to prepare a summary of NCCCE's achievements, including the public forums on air quality, for publication on the NCCCE website.</p> <p>Action 6: EPA to organise for NCCCE an independently facilitated planning session to identify NCCCE priorities for 2015.</p>
<p>Item 7</p>	<p>Update on EPA Lower Hunter Air Quality Projects</p> <p>7.1. Newcastle Local Air Quality Monitoring Network</p> <p>Ms Woodroffe confirmed that the Stockton air quality monitoring station had been transferred from Orica to OEH. The site would recommence operation in approximately two weeks, following equipment replacement.</p>

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
<p>Item 7 Cont</p>	<p>7.2. Lower Hunter Community Research Project NCCCE to provide feedback to researchers on the draft final report of the Lower Hunter Community Research Project Report, before 26 October 2014. Refer to Item 5 above.</p> <p>7.3. Lower Hunter and Lake Macquarie-Wyong Monthly Air Quality Reports EPA expects the Lower Hunter Monthly Air Quality Report, June 2014, will be completed as soon all monitoring data is received. EPA has engaged Todoroski Air Sciences to prepare the monthly reports for :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Lake Macquarie – Wyong (including Wallsend) for September 2013 to June 2015. The draft report for September 2013 is in production. The draft will be reviewed by Lake Macquarie Council’s Air Quality Reference Group. ii. Lower Hunter for monitoring sites at Newcastle, Wallsend, Beresfield and Stockton and Mayfield, for July and August 2014. <p>OEH will report to NCCCE the quarterly results of monitoring at Newcastle, Wallsend, Beresfield, Stockton, Carrington and Mayfield. The reports will include a seasonal analysis of weather conditions.</p> <p>7.4. Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study The Project Management Team meeting was held by teleconference on 18 September, 2014. Sherree Woodroffe represented NCCCE in absence of Keith Craig. All sampling is on track. The draft Winter Progress Report is due this month. The next meeting will be by teleconference at 2:00pm-3:00pm, on 23 October 2014.</p> <p>7.1. Lower Hunter Dust Deposition Study AECOM has identified most sampling sites. The methodology paper will be finalised when all sampling sites have been confirmed. No sampling has commenced.</p>
<p>Item 8</p>	<p>General Business Mr Banyard tabled information on the United Kingdom’s award winning freight rail diesel technology which reduces emissions and fuel consumption. Mr Gilligan advised that the information had been forwarded to EPA Metro Branch, which regulates rail transport. Mr Davey recommended that the information also be forwarded to EPA Air Policy.</p> <p>Mr Banyard commended Orica for organising and hosting a community meeting which addressed ammonium nitrate transport and steps to reduce risks and improve management.</p> <p>The Chair noted the information and thanked Mr Banyard.</p>
<p>Item 9</p>	<p>Next Meetings Date: Wednesdays, 12 November 2014 and 10 December 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 7:20 pm</p>	

ACTION ITEM LOG

NCCCE MEETING NO. 31, 8 October 2014 - ACTIONS	DUE	RESP
Action 1: EPA to remind NCCCE members individually to provide feedback to researchers on the draft final report of the Lower Hunter Community Research Project Report, before 26 October 2014.	25 Oct 2014	All
Action 2: NCCCE to report back to the next meeting, to share feedback on the Lower Hunter Community Research Project Report	12 Nov 2104	EPA
Action 3: EPA to email NCCCE an online link to the EPA Strategic Plan 2014-17	ASAP	EPA
Action 4: EPA to organise a briefing for NCCCE on the EPA Strategic Plan 2014-17.	12 Nov 2104	EPA
Action 5: EPA to prepare a summary of NCCCE's achievements, including the public forums on air quality, for publication on the NCCCE website	12 Nov 2104 Draft	EPA
Action 6: EPA to organise for NCCCE an independently facilitated planning session to identify NCCCE priorities for 2015	Update 12 Nov 2104	EPA