

MEETING No. 35
Newcastle Community Consultative Committee on the Environment
(NCCCE)

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 18 March 2015 **Time:** 5.30 pm

File: EF13/8723

Location: Conference Room, First Floor, City Administration Building
 282 King Street, Newcastle

In attendance: John Tate (Chair), Rick Banyard (Community), Keith Craig (Community), Andrew Baxter (Newcastle City Council), Nick Godfrey-Smith (Industry), Paul McBain (Minister’s Nominee), John Mackenzie (Environment - alternate), Sherree Woodroffe (Industry)

Ann-Louise Crotty (EPA Manager Air Policy).
 Adam Gilligan (EPA Manager, Hunter Region),
 Leanne Graham (EPA Project Officer).

Apologies Paul Thomas (Industry)

Meeting Record

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
Item 1	Welcome Chair welcomed attendees and thanked Mr Baxter for arranging the venue.
Item 2	Apologies As above.
Item 3	Minutes from Previous Meeting (10 December 2014) Minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as a true and accurate record.
Item 4	Actions Arising from Previous Meetings <u>Meeting No.34 (18Feb2015) Action 1:</u> Completed 19/02/15. The EPA emailed to NCCCE an electronic link to the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) Scientific Rigour Statement. <u>Meeting No.34 (18Feb2015) Action 2:</u> Completed 12/0315. The EPA emailed to NCCCE, on behalf of NCCCE’s Industry Representative, Ms Woodroffe, the PM _{2.5} particle characterisation results from the ANSTO air sampling program recorded for the period of Orica’s operation of the Stockton air quality monitoring site. <u>Meeting No.34 (18Feb2015) Action 3:</u> Completed 25/02/15. NCCCE provided comments to the EPA on the draft Newcastle Local Air Quality Monitoring Network Seasonal Report: Spring 2014.

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	<p><u>Meeting No.34 (18Feb2015) Action 4:</u> Ongoing. Update 18/03/15. NCCCE discussed the future of NCCCE post-November 2015 (refer to Item 6 below).</p> <p><u>Meeting No.34 (18Feb2015) Action 5:</u> Ongoing. Update due 22/04/15. The Chair deferred to the next meeting discussion of NCCCE's communications matrix.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.34 (18Feb2015) Action 6:</u> Due 22/04/15. NCCCE's Industry Representative, Mr Thomas, to brief the NCCCE on the wire rope making activities at Mayfield and associated noise and vibration impacts, at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.34 (18Feb2015) Action 7:</u> Completed 19/02/15. The EPA emailed to NCCCE a link to the ABC TV program <i>Catalyst</i>, broadcast on 10 February 2015, which investigated current sources of lead exposure and its developmental effects on children.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.34 (18Feb2015) Action 8:</u> Due 22/04/15. The EPA to brief the NCCCE on the EPA's review of lead exposure management in north Lake Macquarie and the regulatory framework for contaminated sites.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.34 (18Feb2015) Recommendation 1:</u></p> <p><u>Meeting No.34 (18Feb2015) Recommendation 2:</u> Completed 18/02/15. The EPA updated NCCCE on the EPA's Diesel and Marine Emissions Strategy (refer to Item 5 below).</p> <p><u>Meeting No.34 (18Feb2015) Recommendation 3:</u> Progressing. The EPA to facilitate a briefing to NCCCE on latest National Pollution Inventory report following publication.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.34 (18Feb2015) Recommendation 4:</u> Commenced 18/03/15. The EPA circulated to NCCCE, complaint summary information from the EPA. The EPA agreed to provide more detail of the nature of the Environment Line complaints at future meetings.</p> <p>ACTION 1: The EPA to circulate, at NCCCE meetings, summary information from the EPA Environment Line, including the timing and nature of the complaints.</p>
Item 5	<p>Update on the EPA's Air Emissions Reduction Strategies</p> <p>Ms Crotty provided an update on the EPA's strategies for reducing emissions from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-road diesel engines in the mining, construction, rail and shipping sectors; and - Woodsmoke from domestic heaters. <p>Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In February 2015, the EPA launched its Diesel and Marine Emissions Management Strategy. This followed a stakeholder workshop in June 2014, attended by NCCCE Chair Mr Tate and Mr Banyard, Community Representative. • One element of the strategy is a review of best practice measures for reducing non road diesel emissions at coal mines. Public comments were received on the EPA's draft report and a final report is expected to be published in April. The report proposes the adoption of world's best emissions standards, US EPA Tier 4, on all newly purchased mobile non-road diesel plant and equipment, by 1 January 2018.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EPA will be working with the mining industry to introduce Pollution Reduction Programs on Environment Protection Licences to achieve emission improvements, including a 25% emission reduction across the licensee’s existing fleet of non-road diesel plant and equipment. <p>ACTION 2: The EPA to confirm the timeline for industries holding Environment Protection Licences to achieve a 25% emission reduction across the licensee’s existing fleet of non-road diesel plant and equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EPA commenced a pilot project with a Hunter rail operator, to validate the emission reductions and fuel efficiencies achieved by upgrading diesel locomotives using the retrofit kit Tier Zero Plus (Tier 0+). The Tier 0+ kit was developed to meet the mandatory emission standards applied to existing locomotives in the US. The pilot study is testing the emissions performance and fuel efficiency of a coal train locomotive and a non-coal freight locomotive, before and after upgrading the locomotives with the kits. The EPA expects to publish the results in October 2015. • The EPA has engaged international consultants to investigate management options for improving shipping emissions, for example, by:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Installing scrubber technology inside the ship’s stack to remove particles from the exhaust stream, ii. Requiring ships to use low sulphur diesel fuel (the current international requirement is 3.5% sulfur), and iii. Providing shore-side electric power infrastructure for ships in port. <p>ACTION 3: EPA to brief NCCCE on roles and responsibilities of authorities involved in the regulation of shipping activity including emissions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EPA has started public consultation on proposed amendments to the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2010</i> to improve the management of wood heaters. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. increased controls for councils to implement, and ii. more stringent emission and efficiency limits, to meet upgraded Australian/New Zealand Standards. <p>Some Committee members expressed disappointment at the slow progress of diesel emissions reductions. The EPA emphasised that the pilot project builds the EPA’s evidence base for planning implementation across the rail sector.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Ms Crotty, commended the EPA on its balanced approach and noted that the Committee would welcome updates on the project, as available.</p>
Item 6	<p>Discussion on the Future of NCCCE after November 2015</p> <p>The EPA opened discussion, noting the following points for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenure of Committee members expires on 11 November 2015. • At the planning session on 17 January 2015, Committee members agreed that further information was required before making a recommendation to the EPA in July 2015, regarding the future of the NCCCE after November 2015.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 10 March 2015, the Minister approved the call for nominations for an NCCCE environment representative to fill vacancy following the resignation of Ms Rogers, Environment Representative. <p>In discussion, the Committee agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To recommend that the EPA extends the temporary membership of Dr John Mackenzie, Acting Environment Representative, to November 2015, in line with the tenure of current committee members, rather than advertising now for a new member whose term of office would expire in November 2015. To consider the advantages and disadvantages of reconstituting the NCCCE under Division 4 of the <i>Protection of the Environment (Administration) Act 1991</i>, in line with the Upper Hunter Air Quality Advisory Committee (UHAQAC). To review the NCCCE Terms of Reference, amending the functions of the Committee and maintaining the current roles and number of members. <p>RECOMMENDATION 1. That the EPA extends the temporary membership of Mr Mackenzie, Acting Environment Representative, to November 2015, in line with the tenure of current committee members, rather than advertising now for a new member whose term of office would expire in November 2015.</p> <p>ACTION 4: EPA to re-draft the NCCCE Terms of Reference, articulating the roles and responsibilities of the Minister, the EPA Chair and CEO, and committee members, for discussion at the next meeting.</p>
Item 7	<p>Planning session – Improving communication with the wider community on environmental issues</p> <p>The Chair deferred discussion of this matter to the next meeting, due to time constraints.</p> <p>ACTION 5: NCCCE to discuss at the next meeting how the EPA can improve communication with the wider community on environmental issues.</p>
Item 8	<p>Update on EPA Lower Hunter Air Quality Projects</p> <p><u>Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project Management Group met on 20 February 2015. The final report will include case studies of samplings days that recorded elevated particle levels, including analyses of meteorological conditions. The sampling period concluded in February 2015. Analysis is underway and the final report is due in early 2016. OEH received NCCCE’s recommendation to provide results as soon as practicable. <p><u>Lake Macquarie-Wyong Air Quality Monthly Reports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wyong Council provided feedback. EPA expects the report to be finalised and published by end March 2015 and the other reports to follow as soon as possible. <p><u>Lower Hunter Dust Deposition Study</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sampling is on track.

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	<p><u>Environmental Service Orders</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA is developing a standard template for regular reporting to NCCCE.
<p>Item 9</p>	<p>General Business</p> <p>The EPA advised that Mr Banyard had provided links to web sites that reported on air quality monitoring around the world. Mr Banyard added that the sites may interest Committee members' contacts in the wider community.</p> <p>ACTION 6: EPA to circulate to NCCCE the links provided by Mr Banyard to web sites that reported on air quality monitoring around the world.</p> <p>Mr Gilligan advised that he briefed the Newcastle City Council on 17 March 2015 on the EPA's key priorities for air quality.</p> <p>ACTION 6: EPA to circulate to NCCCE a copy of the EPA's presentation to the Newcastle City Council, on 17 March 2015, about the EPA's key priorities for air quality.</p> <p>In response to a question from Mr Craig, Mr Gilligan outlined the Gloucester coal seam gas flow-back water issue. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Protection Licences of the companies had not been breached. The wastewater treatment company is licensed to treat hydrocarbons, which include BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes). Flow-back water may naturally contain BTEX. <p>In response to a question from Mr Banyard, Mr Gilligan advised that he would check the detail of the proximity principle in Hunter Water Corporation's Trade Waste Agreement and its application in the case of coal seam gas flow-back water disposal from Gloucester.</p> <p>ACTION 7: EPA to confirm the detail of the proximity principle in Hunter Water Corporation's Trade Waste Agreement and its application in the case of coal seam gas flow-back water disposal from Gloucester.</p> <p>Committee members discussed dates for future meetings (refer to Item 12 below). The EPA noted that the draft agenda for 22 April included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer air quality report Mr Thomas' report on Arrium's management of the impacts of wire rope making at Mayfield (Action from 18 Feb2015) Mr Gilligan to report on (Action from 18 Feb2015) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA's management of lead contamination in north Lake Macquarie Regulatory framework for contaminated land management Communications matrix – deferred from 18 March 2014 Re-draft Terms of Reference for NCCCE post 2015 (Action from 18Mar2015) <p>The Chair thanked attendees for their participation.</p>

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
Item 12	<p>Next Meetings</p> <p>22 Apr Summer Air Quality Report and Seasonal Analysis, 20 May Planning NCCCE post-November 2015 (continued), 17 Jun Planning NCCCE post-November 2015 (continued), 22 Jul Autumn Air Quality Report and Seasonal Analysis, 21 Oct Winter Air Quality Report and Seasonal Analysis.</p>
Meeting ended at 7.25 pm	

ACTION ITEM LOG NCCCE MEETING NO. 35, 18 March 2015	DUE	RESP
ACTION 1. The EPA to circulate, at NCCCE meetings, summary information from the EPA Environment Line, including the timing and nature of the complaints.	Each meeting.	EPA
ACTION 2: The EPA to confirm the timeline for industries holding Environment Protection Licences to achieve a 25% diesel emission reduction across the licensee's existing fleet of non-road diesel plant and equipment.	22/04/15	EPA
ACTION 3: The EPA to brief NCCCE on roles and responsibilities of authorities involved in the regulation of shipping activity including emissions.	To be determined.	EPA
ACTION 4: The EPA to re-draft the NCCCE Terms of Reference, articulating the roles and responsibilities of the Minister, the EPA Chair and CEO, and committee members, for discussion at the next meeting.	22/04/15	EPA
ACTION 5: NCCCE to discuss at the next meeting how the EPA can improve communication with the wider community on environmental issues.	22/04/18	EPA
ACTION 6: The EPA to circulate to NCCCE a copy of the EPA's presentation to the Newcastle City Council, on 17 March 2015, about the EPA's key priorities for air quality.	ASAP	EPA
ACTION 7: EPA to confirm the detail of the proximity principle in Hunter Water Corporation's Trade Waste Agreement and its application in the case of coal seam gas flow-back water disposal from Gloucester.	22/04/15	EPA
RECOMMENDATION 1. That the EPA extends the temporary membership of Dr John Mackenzie, Acting Environment Representative, to November 2015, in line with the tenure of current committee members, rather than advertising now for a new member whose term of office would expire in November 2015.		