

**MEETING No. 37**  
**Newcastle Community Consultative Committee on the Environment**  
**(NCCCE)**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** 17 June 2015 **Time:** 5.30 pm

**File:** EF13/8273

**Location:** EPA Office Conference Room, Ground Floor,  
 State Government Offices Building, 117 Bull Street, Newcastle

**In attendance:** John Tate (Chair), Rick Banyard (Community),  
 Andrew Baxter (City of Newcastle), Keith Craig (Community),  
 Nick Godfrey-Smith (Industry), Paul McBain (Minister’s Nominee),  
 Paul Thomas (Industry), Sherree Woodroffe (Industry).  
  
 Deon van Rensburg (National Parks and Wildlife Service, Office of  
 Environment and Heritage)  
  
 Adam Gilligan (EPA Manager Hunter Region),  
 Leanne Graham (EPA Project Officer)

**Apologies:** John Mackenzie (Environment - alternate)

**Meeting Record**

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
Item 1	<b>Welcome</b> Chair welcomed attendees and introduced Mr van Rensburg
Item 2	<b>Apologies</b> As above.
Item 3	<b>Environmental Service Orders – Restoration of Kooragang Dykes and Tomago Wetland Rehabilitation</b> Mr van Rensburg of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) presented an overview of the restoration works on the Kooragang Island dykes and the rehabilitation works at Tomago Wetland. Key points included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Environmental Service Orders, arising from the prosecution of Orica Australia for pollution incidents in 2010/2011, provided funding for the Tomago Wetland Rehabilitation Project Stage 3 and the Kooragang Dykes restoration.</li> <li>• The wetland covers 450 hectares within the 5,200 hectare Hunter Wetlands National Park, which provides critical habitat to migratory birds that breed in Russia and Alaska. The wetlands are Ramsar listed.</li> <li>• Rehabilitation works have been undertaken to reduce the area of human-induced freshwater wetland and to re-establish natural tidal mudflats and salt marsh conditions for migratory shore-birds.</li> </ul>

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
<p><b>Item 3 (cont)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved water management infrastructure includes smart flood gates to monitor water quality and depth and control the amount of wetland inundation.</li> <li>• The Kooragang Dyke restoration involves raising the dyke and stabilising its eastern side to create a type of sea wall to dissipate wave energy from the river. The works maintain the current hydrology and tidal lag into the ponds between the dyke and the island shore.</li> <li>• Members of the Hunter Bird Observers Club access the area by kayak to monitor bird populations.</li> </ul> <p>In discussion, Committee Members recommended that NPWS promotes the project and its achievements to the wider community. NCCCE expressed interest in being kept informed about future milestones.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Mr van Rensburg for the informative presentation. He commended the collaborative work of government, industry and community to achieve significant environmental improvement.</p>
<p><b>Item 4</b></p>	<p><b>NCCCE Priority Actions 2015</b></p> <p><b>a. Future of NCCCE after November 2015 - Review of draft letter to Minister</b>  The Committee endorsed the draft letter to the Minister for the Environment, from the Chair, on behalf of the NCCCE. The letter requested that the Minister supports the continuation of the Committee for another two years, until November 2017. The letter referred to the NCCCE's achievements, since the inception of the Committee in 2011.  <b>ACTION 1: NCCCE Chair, on behalf of the Committee Members, forwards the letter to the Minister for the Environment, requesting that the Minister supports the continuation of the Committee for another two years, until November 2017.</b></p> <p><b>b. Planning for Community Drop-in Day (July 2015)</b>  Mr Gilligan advised of the opportunity for integrating a community drop-in day with an interactive community workshop being planned for Friday 24 July 2014, at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Workshop of the Australian and New Zealand Aerosol Assembly, to be held at the University of Newcastle. The interactive workshop would involve EPA and OEH staff working with community members, individually or in small groups, to demonstrate how to navigate the internet to use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office of Environment and Heritage's air quality monitoring data; including, how to find and understand the air quality map for Newcastle, how to use the search facility, and how to find past reports.</li> <li>• EPA's Emissions in My Community web tool.</li> <li>• HYSPLIT trajectory modelling.</li> <li>• Global air quality data, such as Chinese air quality data.</li> </ul> <p>Committee members endorsed, in-principle, the workshop planned for 24 July 2014 and recommended planning an EPA/NCCCE-facilitated workshop, with a similar program for a wider community audience, after office hours, based on the workshop of 24 July 2015.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION 1: EPA and NCCCE to facilitate an interactive community workshop demonstrating how to access online air quality information, to be held outside of normal office hours.</b></p>

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
<p><b>Item 4 (cont)</b></p>	<p><b>c. Improving communications with the wider community on environmental issues – Communications Matrix</b></p> <p>Mr Gilligan noted that a priority outcome from the Committee’s Communications Matrix was a community workshop on accessing air quality information (see previous agenda item).</p> <p>Committee members discussed other opportunities for informing the wider community about environmental issues. Mr Craig suggested a regular newsletter to all Newcastle households, providing updates on environmental studies and air quality monitoring results. The Committee discussed the logistics of newsletters including methods of dissemination and the issue of wastage.</p> <p>Mr Gilligan reiterated that the <i>EPA Connect</i> quarterly newsletter provides stakeholders and the general community with information about the EPA and its work, including information about the NCCCE.</p> <p><b>ACTION 2: (i) EPA to send Committee Members the link to the EPA Connect quarterly newsletter, and (ii) EPA to explore options for disseminating the information to a wider audience.</b></p> <p>The Committee members discussed where responsibility lies for advising the community during an environmental emergency. It was noted that ABC Local Radio (1233) provides the most up-to-date information during emergencies such severe weather events.</p>
<p><b>Item 5</b></p>	<p><b>Management of the Impacts of Wire Rope Making at Mayfield</b></p> <p>Paul Thomas (NCCCE member) spoke to this issue. He explained that at the Mayfield factory, wire rope is made on machines which rotate at high speed, creating noise and vibration. Initiatives implemented at the factory since 1998, to reduce noise and vibration impacts experienced in the adjacent residential area, include over 130 separate noise improvements and over 100 separate vibration improvements.</p> <p>Key initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sound proofing of building walls and roof.</li> <li>• Low noise alarms and beepers.</li> <li>• Automated vibration monitoring and alert system.</li> <li>• Consultation and monitoring within residences.</li> <li>• Modified operations between 7 pm and 9 am.</li> <li>• Upgrades to residential properties including window replacement.</li> </ul> <p>Major capital work is approved for significant modifications to the premises’ roof and façade to reduce noise.</p> <p>The Chair acknowledged the history of continuous improvement and commended the industry’s collaborative work with the neighbouring community.</p>

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
Item 6	<p><b>Minutes from Previous Meeting (20 May 2015)</b></p> <p>Minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as a true and accurate record, pending the committee members' review and no comments by 5 pm, Thursday, 18 June 2015. If comments are received, then the Committee will consider amendments at the next meeting on 22 July 2015.</p>
Item 7	<p><b>Actions Arising from Previous Meetings and EPA monthly Environment Line summary</b></p> <p><u>Meeting No.34 (18 Feb 2015) Action 6:</u> Completed 17/06/15. NCCCE's Industry Representative, Mr Thomas, briefed the NCCCE on the wire rope making activities at Mayfield and associated noise and vibration impacts. (Refer to Item 5 above).</p> <p><u>Meeting No.34 (18 Feb 2015) Recommendation 3:</u> (Refer to Action 1, 20/05/15, below).</p> <p><u>Meeting No. 35 (18 Mar 2015) Action 3:</u> Progressed 17/06/15. EPA summarised the roles and responsibilities of authorities involved in the regulation of shipping activity including emissions. The EPA is the appropriate regulatory authority (ARA) for piloted vessels which typically are the larger vessels and the greatest source of air emissions. Roads and Maritimes Services is the ARA for smaller non-piloted vessels and for noise issues from all ships. The information is available on the EPA website. NCCCE members asked for the information in written form, in addition to the meeting minutes.</p> <p><b>ACTION 3: EPA to provide to Committee members (i) written information on the roles and responsibilities of authorities involved in the regulation of shipping activity including emissions, and (ii) the web link to the relevant information on the EPA website.</b></p> <p><u>Meeting No. 35 (18 Mar 2015) Action 4:</u> Completed 17/06/15. EPA emailed to Committee members the draft update to the NCCCE Terms of Reference, maintaining existing roles and responsibilities of the Minister, the EPA Chair and CEO and committee members.</p> <p><u>Meeting No. 35 (18 Mar 2015 Action 5):</u> Completed 20/05/15. (Refer to Meeting No. 36 Action 6, below.)</p> <p><u>Meeting No. 36 (20 May 2015) Action 1:</u> Progressing. On 10/06/15, the EPA circulated a link to the National Pollution Inventory (NPI) website, seeking input from the Committee to define the scope of a presentation to the NCCCE. The Chair deferred discussion until 1/06/15, due to time constraints and the absence of the NCCCE Environment Representative.</p> <p><u>Meeting No. 36 (20 May 2015) Action 2:</u> Progressing. NCCCE requested an update on the non-road diesel pollution reduction program, including the number and percentage of pollution reduction programs (PRPs) completed by December 2015. The EPA advised that it is preparing to release the report of the <i>NSW Coal Mining Benchmarking Study - Best Practice Measures for Reducing Non-Road Diesel Exhaust Emissions</i>. The report will provide a comprehensive outline of the study and identify cost effective options to reduce emissions.</p>

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
<p><b>Item 7 (cont)</b></p>	<p>Following the release of the report, the EPA will prepare a draft pollution reduction program (PRP) and guidance document and issue the draft PRP to all EPA-licensed coal mines for comment. The aim is to implement the findings of the benchmarking study through a PRP, which requires all existing EPA-licensed coal mines to identify the most practicable options and implementation timeframes for achieving exhaust emission performance standards for in-service, new and replacement non-road diesels.</p> <p><u>Meeting No. 36 (20 May 2015) Action 3:</u> Completed 03/06/15. The EPA emailed the slide presentation of Mr Gilligan’s overview of the regulatory framework for contaminated land management in NSW, of 20 May 2015.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.36 (20 May 2015) Action 4:</u> Completed 03/06/15. The EPA emailed to Committee Members the draft amended NCCCE Terms of Reference.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.36 (20 May 2015) Action 5:</u> Completed 17/06/15. The Committee members endorsed a draft letter from NCCCE Chair to the Minister for the Environment recommending continuation of the NCCCE after November 2015 and attaching the NCCCE’s achievements. (Refer to Item 4, Action 1, above.)</p> <p><u>Meeting No.36 (20 May 2015) Action 6:</u> Completed 10/06/15. The EPA collated and circulated feedback on the NCCCE draft communication matrix for NCCCE to discuss at the 17/06/15 meeting. (Refer to Item 4 (iii) below).</p> <p><u>Meeting No.36 (20 May 2015) Action 7:</u> Progressing. The Committee discussed NCCCE a community drop-in day for July 2015. Refer to Item 4 (i) below.)</p> <p><u>Meeting No.36 (20 May 2015) Action 8:</u> Completed 03/06/15. The EPA emailed to Committee Members the updated information on the Environmental Service Orders arising from the prosecution of Orica Australia by the Land and Environment Court of NSW for pollution incidents in 2010/2011.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.36 (20 May 2015) Action 9:</u> Completed 17/06/15. The EPA arranged a National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) presentation to NCCCE on implementation of Environmental Service Orders. (Refer to Item 3 above.)</p> <p><u>Meeting No.36 (20 May 2015) Action 10:</u> Progressing. On 03/06/15, the EPA emailed to Committee Members the questions and answers raised in General Business on 20/05/15.</p> <p><b>ACTION 4: NCCCE Committee Members to provide comment at the next meeting on EPA responses to questions in General Business on 20/05/15.</b></p> <p><u>Meeting No.36 (20 May 2015) Action 11:</u> Completed 03/06/15. The EPA emailed to Committee Members a link to the coal seam gas webpage on the EPA’s website.</p>

Agenda Item	Meeting Details								
Item 8	<p><b>Update on EPA Lower Hunter Air Quality Projects</b></p> <p><b><u>Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSIRO and ANSTO are finalising the chemical analysis and quality assurance processes. Next steps will be numerical analysis to identify patterns which indicate emission source types.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Lake Macquarie-Wyong Air Quality Monthly Reports</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Reports have been received for September 2013 to January 2015.</li> <li>• Todoroski Air Sciences is preparing reports up to April 2015.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Lower Hunter Dust Deposition Study</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sampling is on track. AECOM is preparing the six month interim report.</li> </ul>								
Item 10	<p><b>General Business</b></p> <p><b>ACTION 5: EPA to email to committee members the slide presentations from Items 3 and 5 above.</b></p>								
Item 11	<p><b>Next Meetings</b></p> <p>As per previous meeting minutes, future meetings are to include:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>17 Jun</td> <td>Planning NCCCE post-November 2015 (continued),</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22 Jul</td> <td>Autumn Air Quality Report and Seasonal Analysis,</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19 Aug</td> <td>Agenda items to be determined,</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21 Oct</td> <td>Winter Air Quality Report and Seasonal Analysis.</td> </tr> </table>	17 Jun	Planning NCCCE post-November 2015 (continued),	22 Jul	Autumn Air Quality Report and Seasonal Analysis,	19 Aug	Agenda items to be determined,	21 Oct	Winter Air Quality Report and Seasonal Analysis.
17 Jun	Planning NCCCE post-November 2015 (continued),								
22 Jul	Autumn Air Quality Report and Seasonal Analysis,								
19 Aug	Agenda items to be determined,								
21 Oct	Winter Air Quality Report and Seasonal Analysis.								
<p><b>Meeting ended at 7.40 pm</b></p>									

ACTION ITEM LOG NCCCE MEETING NO. 37, 17 June 2015	DUE	RESP
<b>ACTION 1:</b> NCCCE Chair, on behalf of the Committee Members, to dispatch the letter to the Minister for the Environment, requesting that the Minister supports the continuation of the Committee for another two years, until November 2017.	ASAP	Chair
<b>RECOMMENDATION 1:</b> The EPA and NCCCE to facilitate an interactive community workshop demonstrating how to access online air quality information, to be held outside of normal office hours.	ASAP	All
<b>ACTION 2:</b> The EPA to (i) send Committee Members the link to the EPA Connect quarterly newsletter, and (ii) explore options for disseminating the information to a wider audience.	(i) ASAP (ii) 22/07/15	EPA NCCCE
<b>ACTION 3:</b> The EPA to provide to Committee members (i) written information on the roles and responsibilities of authorities involved in the regulation of shipping activity including emissions, and (ii) the web link to the relevant information on the EPA website.	ASAP	EPA
<b>ACTION 4:</b> NCCCE Committee Members to provide comment at the next meeting on the EPA's responses to questions in General Business on 20/05/15.		EPA
<b>ACTION 5:</b> The EPA to email to committee members the slide presentations from Items 3 and 5 above.		EPA