



**MEETING No. 38**  
**Newcastle Community Consultative Committee on the Environment**  
**(NCCCE)**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** 22 July 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), Keith Craig (Community),  
John Mackenzie (Environment – alternate),  
Paul McBain (Minister’s Community Nominee), Paul Thomas (Industry),  
Sherree Woodroffe (Industry),  
  
Alan Betts (Senior Team Leader, Quality Systems and Reporting,  
Climate and Atmospheric Science, Office and Environment (OEH),  
  
Adam Gilligan (EPA Manager Hunter Region), and  
Leanne Graham (EPA Project Officer

**Apologies:** Andrew Baxter (City of Newcastle), Nick Godfrey-Smith (Industry), and  
Sylvia Bell (EPA Director Stakeholder Engagement and Governance)

**Absent:** Rick Banyard (Community)

**Meeting Record**

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Welcome</b> Chair welcomed attendees and introduced Mr Betts
<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Apologies</b> As above.
<b>Item 3</b>	<b>NCCCE Priority Actions – Planning a community interactive workshop on air quality</b> Mr Gilligan confirmed that Mr Betts and other OEH officers would run an interactive community workshop on accessing online air quality monitoring data, at the 11 <sup>th</sup> Annual Australian and New Zealand Aerosol Assembly, to be held at the University of Newcastle, NSW on 24 July 2015.

<p><b>Item 3 (Cont)</b></p>	<p>The EPA confirmed the availability of the WEA Computer Laboratory, Laman Street Campus, Cooks Hill, as a possible venue for a similar workshop, to be held as an NCCCE community event, from 5.30pm to 8.30pm, on Wednesday, 19 August 2015. Committee members supported the proposal.</p> <p>The Committee supported the following program for the community event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three one-hour sessions would be offered, commencing at 5:30pm, 6:30pm and 7:30pm.</li> <li>• Each session would begin with introductory demonstrations of:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. EPA's Emissions in My Community web tool.</li> <li>ii. 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 international air quality monitoring data.</li> <li>iii. How to map air movements around Newcastle using trajectory modelling.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION 1: The EPA and OEH to facilitate an NCCCE community event to demonstrate how to access online air quality information, to be held at the WEA Computer Laboratory, Laman Street, Cooks Hill, on Wednesday 19 August 2015, with sessions commencing at 5.30 pm, 6.30 pm and 7.30 pm.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION 2: The EPA to draft media release and press advertisement to publicise the NCCCE community event.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION 3: Mr Craig to provide the EPA with contact details for the fortnightly community, <i>Portside Local</i>, to publicise the NCCCE community event.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION 4: Ms Woodroffe to provide the EPA with contact details for the Orica community newsletter, to publicise the NCCCE community event.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION 5: The EPA to provide copies of the Help Pages on the OEH air quality monitoring web site, for public distribution at the NCCCE community event.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION 6: OEH to report number of visits to the air quality monitoring web pages before and after the NCCCE community event.</b></p>
<p><b>Item 4</b></p>	<p><b>Minutes from Previous Meeting (17 June 2015)</b> Minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as a true and accurate record.</p>
<p><b>Item 5</b></p>	<p><b>Actions Arising from Previous Meetings summary</b></p> <p><b>Meeting No.37 (17 June 2015) Action 1:</b> Completed 22/06/15. NCCCE Chair sent a letter to the Minister for the Environment, requesting that the Minister supports the continuation of the Committee for another two years, until November 2017.</p>

<p><b>Item 5 (Cont)</b></p>	<p>The EPA advised that the Minister is considering the Chair's request. If endorsed, EPA would reconstitute the NCCCE under of the <i>Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991</i>, Division 4 – Advisory committees, as part of the EPA's response to the NSW Legislative Council inquiry into the performance of the EPA, published in February 2015. The EPA will provide more information at the next NCCCE meeting. The EPA provided hardcopies of Division 4 of the Act to Committee members, noting that sections of the NCCCE Terms of Reference are based on Division 4.</p> <p>The EPA noted that the Committee members' period of tenure would expire on 10 November 2015. If endorsed by the Minister, the EPA would advertise publicly for community, environment and industry representatives and that members were eligible for to re-apply for appointment.</p> <p><b><u>Meeting No.37 (17 June 2015) Recommendation 1:</u></b> Progressing. The EPA and OEHL to facilitate an interactive community workshop demonstrating how to access online air quality information, to be held outside of normal office hours. (Refer to Item 3, Action 1 above).</p> <p><b><u>Meeting No.37 (17 June 2015) Action 2:</u></b> Progressing. 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 (Refer to Item 8 below).</p> <p><b><u>Meeting No.37 (17 June 2015) Action 3:</u></b> Progressing. 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 web site.</p> <p><b><u>Meeting No.37 (17 June 2015) Action 4:</u></b> Discussion postponed to 16/09/15 due to absence of Mr Banyard. NCCCE Committee Members to provide comment on the EPA's responses to questions in General Business on 20/05/15.</p>
<p><b>Item 6</b></p>	<p><b>Air Quality Monitoring Report and Seasonal Analysis for Autumn 2015</b></p> <p>Mr Betts presented the draft quarterly report on the Newcastle Local Air Quality Monitoring Network for autumn 2015. Mr Betts noted the new simplified format. points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From 1 March to 31 May 2015, air quality in the Newcastle region was generally good.</li> <li>• There were no days above the benchmark concentrations for PM<sub>2.5</sub> particles, nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>).</li> <li>• Daily average PM<sub>10</sub> particle levels were above the benchmark of 50 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m<sup>3</sup>) on ten days during autumn 2015.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Item 6 (Cont)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stockton recorded elevated levels on all ten days, mainly when onshore winds were predominant. Elevated hourly particle levels (&gt;75 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) occurred less than 5% of the time, predominantly under north east winds, as seen in earlier seasons. This indicated the potential contribution of sea salt spray to the particle levels. More information on the composition of airborne particles in the region will be obtained through the Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study.</li> <li>• The other sites at Newcastle, Carrington, Mayfield, Wallsend and Beresfield only recorded levels above the benchmark on 6 May 2015 during a state-wide dust event originating from the Victorian Mallee and southern NSW on 5 May 2015, and transported by the passage of a cold front.</li> <li>• The Newcastle region experienced above average rainfall during autumn.</li> </ul> <p>Mr Betts advised that OEH planned to publish the quarterly air quality reports for the Network on its web site.</p> <p>The Committee endorsed the report and the Chair thanked Mr Betts.</p> <p><b>ACTION 7: NCCCE to provide feedback on format of the draft quarterly report on the Newcastle Local Air Quality Monitoring Network for autumn 2015, to the EPA by Wednesday 29 July 2015.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION 8: The EPA to advise NCCCE members on the publication on the OEH website of the Newcastle Local Air Quality Monitoring Network for autumn 2015.</b></p>
<p><b>Item 7</b></p>	<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>• Mr Craig advised that CSIRO and ANSTO would outline the chemical characterisation methods at the next meeting of the Project Management Team in August 2015.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Lake Macquarie-Wyong Air Quality Monthly Reports</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EPA has received the final reports for September 2013 to April 2015 from Todoroski Air Sciences.</li> <li>• The EPA expects to publish the reports on a dedicated webpage on the EPA website by the end of July 2015.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Lower Hunter Dust Deposition Study</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Project Reference Group met on 15 July 2015 to review the draft report on the study findings for the six month monitoring period from October 2014 to April 2015.</li> <li>• The EPA provided to the NCCCE the final version of the six month interim report.</li> <li>• The preliminary results in the interim report suggested the following:</li> </ul>

<p><b>Item 7 (Cont)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The six-month averages for dust deposition data collected from all twelve sites ranged from 0.7 to 1.4 g/m<sup>2</sup> per month. These values were well below the EPA criterion of 4 g/m<sup>2</sup> per month, which is as an annual average for an acceptable level of deposited dust, measured as insoluble solids.</li> <li>○ Soil or rock dust comprised the greatest proportion of the samples (average of 73 %; maximum of 95 %).</li> <li>○ Coal was detected in measurable amounts in 22 of the 29 samples, and comprised between 5 to 20 % of the samples (average of 6.2 %). Coal was not detected in one sample, and detected in trace amounts in the remaining six samples.</li> <li>○ Soot was detected in measurable amounts in 11 of the samples and comprised between 2 to 10 % of the samples (average of 2.1 %). Soot was found in trace amounts in all but three of the remaining samples.</li> <li>○ Black rubber dust was detected in measureable quantities in 3 of 29 samples, and in trace levels in a further 13 samples. Rubber averaged 0.7 % of each sample.</li> <li>○ Halite (rock salt)/salt was found in four of the brush samples in greater than trace amounts (comprising 5 to 10 % of the samples) and in six of the petri dish samples, where it formed 5 to 20 % of the samples. On average, Halite accounted for 3.6 % of each sample.</li> <li>○ Insect debris, plant debris and miscellaneous fibres were found in many of the samples.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The results for the full twelve month monitoring period are required before drawing any conclusions. The final report is expected in early 2016.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Item 8</b></p>	<p><b>Improving communications with the wider community on environmental issues</b>          Committee members discussed opportunities for informing the wider community about environmental issues and improving the flow of information between industry and the community.</p> <p>The NCCCE agreed to add an agenda item to NCCCE meetings, for members to provide information on relevant events and issues within their respective contact networks, for Committee members to share and disseminate across their community networks.</p> <p><b>ACTION 9: The EPA to add an item to NCCCE meeting agendas, for members to share information on relevant events and issues within their respective contact networks, for disseminating across the members' community networks.</b></p>
<p><b>Item 10</b></p>	<p><b>General Business</b></p> <p>Mr Mackenzie advised that he participated in a stakeholder survey for the EPA's Wood Smoke Reduction Project. The project seeks community input on how to convey to Hunter communities the health issues associated with domestic wood heaters.</p>



<b>Item 10 (Cont)</b>	The Chair tabled information about particle filters used in new on-road diesel engines.
<b>Item 11</b>	<b>Next Meetings</b> 19 Aug Community Event – Using the internet to find out about air quality. 16 Sep Agenda including item by Ms Bell on committee evaluation. 21 Oct Winter air quality report and final meeting for current members.
<b>Meeting ended at 7.20 pm</b>	

<b>ACTION ITEM LOG</b>	<b>DUE</b>	<b>RESP</b>
<b>NCCCE MEETING NO. 38, 22 July 2015</b>		
<b>ACTION 1:</b> The EPA and OEH to facilitate an NCCCE community event to demonstrate how to access online air quality information, to be held at the WEA Computer Laboratory, Laman Street, Cooks Hill, on Wednesday 19 August 2015, with sessions commencing at 5.30 pm, 6.30 pm and 7.30 pm.	19/08/15	EPA OEH
<b>ACTION 2:</b> The EPA to draft media release and press advertisement to publicise the NCCCE community event.	ASAP	EPA
<b>ACTION 3:</b> Mr Craig to provide to the EPA the contact details for the fortnightly community newspaper, Portside Local, to publicise the NCCCE community event.	ASAP	KC
<b>ACTION 4:</b> Ms Woodroffe to provide to the EPA the contact details for the Orica community newsletter, to publicise the NCCCE community event.	ASAP	SW
<b>ACTION 5:</b> The EPA to provide copies of the Help Pages on the OEH air quality monitoring web site, for public distribution at the NCCCE community event.	19/08/15	EPA
<b>ACTION 6:</b> OEH to report number of visits to the air quality monitoring web pages before and after the NCCCE community event.	09/09/15	EPA
<b>ACTION 7:</b> NCCCE to provide feedback on format of the draft quarterly report on the Newcastle Local Air Quality Monitoring Network for autumn 2015, to the EPA by Wednesday 29 July 2015.	29/07/15	NCCCE
<b>ACTION 8:</b> The EPA to advise NCCCE members on the publication on the OEH website of the Newcastle Local Air Quality Monitoring Network for autumn 2015.	ASAP	EPA