



MEETING No. 46

Newcastle Community Consultative Committee on the Environment (NCCCE)

Meeting Minutes

Date:	17 May 2017	Time:	5.30 pm
Location:	EPA Office, 117 Bull Street, Newcastle		
Invitees: Committee Members and Guests/ Presenters			
NCCCE:			
John Tate (Chair)			
Rick Banyard (Community)			
Cynthia Isley (Minister's Community Nominee Deputy)			
Dr Craig Dalton (NSW Health)			
Michael Dowzer, (Industry)			
Trudie Larnach (Industry)			
Paul McMurray (City of Newcastle)			
Nicole Masson (Industry)			
Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)			
Scott Thompson, Senior Air Quality Monitoring Officer			
EPA			
Karen Marler, Director Hunter			
Clair Cameron, Director Stakeholder Engagement and Communication			
Leanne Graham, Community Engagement Officer			
Apologies:	A/Prof Howard Bridgman (Minister's Community Nominee)		
	Keith Craig (Community)		
	Sherree Woodroffe (Industry)		
	Antony Taylor (Deputy Industry)		
Absent:	Dr John Mackenzie (Environment)		

Item	Meeting Minutes
1	Welcome The Chair welcomed new members and guests. Trudie Larnach, Industry Representative replacing Peter Kibble

	<p>Cynthia Isley, Deputy for A/Prof Bridgman</p> <p>Nicole Masson, Industry Representative for Sherree Woodroffe and Antony Taylor</p> <p>Clair Cameron, EPA Director Stakeholder Engagement and Communication</p>
2	<p>Apologies</p> <p>As above</p>
3	<p>Minutes from Previous Meeting (15 February 2017)</p> <p>The Committee adopted the draft previous minutes as a true and accurate record.</p>
4	<p>Actions Arising from Previous Meetings summary</p> <p><u>Meeting No. 45 (15Feb2017) Action 1.</u> Completed 02/05/17. The EPA emailed Committee members the ARTC’s presentation on coal deposition and the vacuuming of rail tracks.</p> <p><u>Meeting No. 45 (15Feb2017) Action 2.</u> Update 17/05/17. The EPA provided an update to the Committee on the publication of the <i>Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study – Supplementary Report – Quantification of the Coal Component in Airborne Particulate Matter at Stockton</i> (refer to Item 9 below).</p> <p><u>Meeting No. 45 (15Feb2017) Action 3.</u> Completed 10/05/17. The EPA emailed to the Committee Orica’s presentation on the ammonia plant maintenance operation.</p> <p><u>Meeting No. 45 (15Feb2017) Action 4.</u> Update 17/05/17. The EPA provided an update to the Committee about the publication of the <i>Lower Hunter River Health Monitoring Report</i> (refer to Item 9 below).</p> <p><u>Meeting No. 45 (15Feb2017) Action 5.</u> Progressing. The EPA will report to the Committee by December 2017, the results of the particle characterisation for PM_{2.5} samples, collected at Stockton in winter 2015 and 2016.</p> <p><u>Meeting No. 45 (15Feb2017) Action 6.</u> Completed 17/05/17. The EPA presented to the Committee the budget forecast for the operation of the Newcastle Local Air Quality Monitoring Network for 2017-2018 (refer to Item 7 below).</p> <p><u>Meeting No. 45 (15Feb2017) Action 7.</u> Completed 17/05/17. The EPA briefed the Committee on the EPA’s Stakeholder Survey 2016-2017 (refer to Item 7 below).</p> <p><u>Meeting No. 45 (15Feb2017) Action 8.</u> Completed 17/02/17. Committee members emailed to EPA comments on <i>Clean Air for NSW Consultation Paper</i>.</p> <p><u>Meeting No. 45 (15Feb2017) Action 9:</u> Update 17/05/17. The EPA will inform the Committee about action to address soil contamination in the Newcastle, as more information becomes available (refer to Item 9).</p>

<p>5</p>	<p>Community Feedback</p> <p>The Chair invited Committee members to report on feedback received from their contact networks since the previous meeting.</p> <p>The Committee noted media allegations that power stations in the Hunter and Central Coast under-reported emissions to the National Pollution Inventory (NPI).</p> <p>Ms Marler confirmed that the EPA was investigating the allegations.</p> <p>Action 1. The EPA will inform the Committee about the findings of the EPA’s investigation into emissions reporting by power stations in the region, as more information becomes available.</p> <p>Ms Isley advised that the Hunter branch of the Clean Air Society for Australia and New Zealand and the Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society were planning a climate change seminar for September, on a date to be finalised.</p> <p>The EPA reminded Committee members that the meeting minutes provided an opportunity to report on information flows between the committee and the wider community.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Air Quality in Newcastle: Summer 2016-2017</p> <p>Mr Thompson presented the draft Newcastle air quality newsletter for summer 2016-2017.</p> <p>Air quality levels were generally good in terms of the NSW Air Quality Index.</p> <p>Levels of NO₂, SO₂, NH₃ and PM_{2.5} were all below benchmarks.</p> <p>Levels of PM₁₀ were above the benchmark on 28 days in summer 2016-2017, with 27 days recorded at Stockton, three at Carrington and one at Wallsend. This result was similar to previous summers, with Stockton recording 27 days over the benchmark in summer 2015-2016 and 30 days in 2014-2015.</p> <p>The <i>Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study 2014-2015</i> found that PM10 levels at Stockton are influenced by sea salt in onshore winds, which are typical during summer.</p> <p>The Committee discussed factors influencing elevated particle levels and the use of rolling annual averages to communicate trends in particle levels.</p> <p>The Committee endorsed the final draft <i>Newcastle Air Quality Monitoring Network Seasonal Newsletter, Summer 2016-2017</i>, for publication on the OEH website.</p> <p>Action 2. The OEH will investigate factors influencing elevated PM₁₀ levels at Wallsend on 24 February 2017 and report to the Committee at the next meeting.</p>

	<p>Action 3. The EPA and OEHL will provide the Committee with options for reporting annual trends in particle levels, in future editions of the air quality seasonal newsletters.</p>
7	<p>Budget Forecast, Newcastle Air Quality Monitoring Network 2017-2018.</p> <p>The Newcastle Local Air Quality Monitoring Network is operated by the NSW Government and funded by major local industries licenced to emit air pollutants.</p> <p>The EPA estimates a total expenditure and income of \$373,080, for the operation of Newcastle air quality monitoring network in the next financial year 2017-2018.</p> <p>The forecast expenditure on salaries, of \$76,526, is the estimated salary cost of EPA Officers to calculate levies, issue invoices to industry, process payments and provide secretariat services to the Committee.</p> <p>The forecast expenditure on contractors, of \$293,200, is the estimated cost to the OEHL to operate the monitoring stations and the reporting infrastructure.</p> <p>The forecast expenditure on the committee, of \$3,354, is the estimated cost of meeting venues, catering and sitting fees paid to the Chair and community members.</p> <p>To recover the government's total cost of \$373,080 for operating the network, the EPA will charge annual levies to major industries, in proportion to their emissions.</p> <p>Therefore, the forecast income from industry, of \$373,080, is the estimated total value of annual levies paid by industries to the EPA, to cover total network costs.</p> <p>The Committee endorsed the forecast budget for 2016-2017.</p> <p>Action 4. The EPA will report to the Committee in October 2017 on the actual income and expenditure for operating the network in the financial year 2016-2017.</p>
8	<p>EPA Stakeholder Engagement Survey 2016-17</p> <p>Ms Cameron presented an overview of EPA Stakeholder Engagement Survey 2016-17, the second major survey by IPSOS for the EPA. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The survey gathered feedback from over 500 participants, more than twice as many people than the first survey in 2013. • Stakeholders included callers to EPA Environment Line, environment groups, local government and industries regulated by environmental legislation. • The most significant finding was the overall increased satisfaction with the level of environmental protection and the performance of the EPA. • Stakeholders most satisfied with the performance of the EPA were local government and industry, rather than community and environment groups. • Stakeholder satisfaction with the EPA's management of air quality was higher among industry (73%) and local government (57%) and environment groups (57%) compared to the community (22%).

	<p>The Committee discussed factors affecting levels the satisfaction with the EPA among community and environment groups, including the role of local newspapers.</p> <p>Action 5. The EPA and the Committee will discuss new approaches to communicating messages on local air quality to the wider community.</p>
9	<p>Local Environmental Issues Update</p> <p>1. Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study – Quantification of Coal Particles at Stockton (winter 2014)</p> <p>The EPA is investigating dust controls at industrial premises that handle fly ash on Kooragang Island, in response to the study’s findings. The EPA is working with CSIRO to analyse the study’s samples further and to quantify fly ash and alumina particles.</p> <p>2. Lower Hunter River Health Monitoring Program</p> <p>The EPA noted that the recent change in the NSW parliament and cabinet, including the Minister for the Environment, had delayed the publication of the report.</p> <p>Action 6. The EPA will provide updates to Committee on the implementation of the recommendations in the report on the <i>Lower Hunter River Health Monitoring Program</i>, as information becomes available.</p> <p>3. Contaminated site management</p> <p>The <i>Review of the NSW Environment Protection Authority’s Management of Contaminated Sites</i>, by Professor Mark Taylor, Macquarie University, recommended adequate resourcing of the EPA to manage contaminated sites.</p> <p>The NSW Government Cabinet paper has requested adequate funding of the EPA to manage contaminated sites.</p> <p>Action 7. The EPA will provide update to the Committee on EPA funding for contaminated land management, as information becomes available.</p>
10	<p>General Business</p> <p>The EPA proposes moving to a more succinct reporting of NCCCE meeting minutes to allow more time for wider stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>The Chair requested that the EPA’s changes to meeting minutes preserve the credibility of the Committee.</p>
11	<p>Next Meeting 19 July 2017</p>
<p>Meeting closed: 7:50 pm</p>	

ACTION ITEM LOG NCCCE MEETING NO. 46, 17 May 2017	DUE	RESP
Action 1. The EPA will inform the Committee about the findings of the EPA's investigation into emissions reporting by power stations in the region, as more information becomes available.	Update 19/07/17	EPA
Action 2. The OEH will investigate factors influencing elevated PM10 levels at Wallsend on 24 February 2017 and report to the Committee at the next meeting.	Update 19/07/17	OEH
Action 3. The EPA and OEH will provide the Committee with options for reporting annual trends in particle levels, in future editions of the air quality seasonal newsletters.	Update 19/07/17	EPA, OEH
Action 4. The EPA will report to the Committee in October 2017 on the actual income and expenditure for operating the network in the financial year 2016-2017.	18/10/17	EPA
Action 5. The EPA and the Committee will discuss new approaches to communicating messages on local air quality to the wider community.	Update 19/07/17	EPA
Action 6. The EPA will provide updates to Committee on the implementation of the recommendations in the report on the <i>Lower Hunter River Health Monitoring Program</i> , as information becomes available.	Update 19/07/17	EPA
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