



## Environment Protection Authority – Newcastle Community Consultative Committee on the Environment Minutes

<b>Today's Meeting Date:</b>	<b>Tues 12 February 2019 (No 53)</b>	<b>Next meeting date:</b>	<b>Tuesday 7 May 2019 (No 54)</b>
<b>Meeting location:</b>	<b>EPA Newcastle</b>	<b>Last Meeting Date:</b>	<b>11 December 2018 (Meeting Number 52)</b>
<b>Meeting opened at:</b>	<b>1730 hrs</b>	<b>Meeting closed at:</b>	<b>1932 hrs</b>
<b>EPA Convenor:</b>	Karen Marler – EPA	<b>Minute Secretary:</b>	Emily Ingram - EPA
<b>Present:</b>	John Tate - Chair Dr Craig Dalton - Department of Health Representative Hamish Rutherford – EPA Thomas Levick - Environment Representative Keith Craig - Community Representative Loredana Warren - Office of Environment and Heritage Mark Manning - Newcastle City Council Representative Rick Banyard - Minister's Community Representative Michael Hood – EPA Chris Tola - Community Representative Karen Marler – EPA Glenn Cooke - Industry Representative Sheree Woodroffe - Industry Representative Kieran Lynch – EPA Peter Jamieson - EPA		
<b>Apologies:</b>	Trudie Larnach - Industry Representative		

<b>1</b>	<b>Review Minutes from last meeting (No 51, 12 September 2018)</b>			
<b>Matters arising from the previous Minutes: (No 51, 12 September 2018)</b>				
<b>No</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1.1	Adoption of previous minutes	The minutes were adopted with four changes.	CHAIR	11.02.19
1.2	<b>Action 2 (Meeting 51):</b> AMSA to provide confirmation that the lost shipping containers do not contain any “nasty” environmental contaminants.	Ongoing	Matt Johnson AMSA	11.02.19
1.3	<b>Action 1: (Meeting 52)</b>	A copy of ‘2017 Sustainable Development Report Pioneering through Partnership Port Waratah Coal Services’ sent to all members.	Emily Ingram	13.12.19
1.4	<b>Action 2: (Meeting 52)</b> Arrange for the Intelligence and Analysis Team from EPA to present on how they use data from complaints: with a focus in Littering and Smoky vehicles.	Send all Committee members copy of the OEH Newcastle Air Quality Monitoring Network Autumn 2018.	Emily Ingram EPA	21.11.18
1.5	<b>Action 3: (Meeting 52)</b> Send a copy of Hamish presentation to Committee members	Ongoing: waiting on version of presentation from Hamish that has been adapted for external circulation.	Emily Ingram	Ongoing
1.6	<b>Action 4: (Meeting 52)</b> Send copy of Directors Update to Committee members		Emily Ingram	22.01.19

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<b>The University of Newcastle: Showing Leadership in Renewables</b>				
No	Agenda Item	Notes	Action/Decision	Status
2.1	Thomas Levick, University of Newcastle to discuss The University of Newcastle: Showing Leadership in Renewables	<p>Mr Thomas Levick from UON provided a presentation titled ' The University of Newcastle: Leading the Sector in Sustainable Energy Systems". This presentation included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Renewable energy at UON - The University of Newcastle (UON) has signed a seven-year contract with Snowy Hydro-owned Red Energy, purchasing 100% renewable electricity for its Newcastle and Central Coast campuses, from 1 January 2020</li> <li>2. Energy in research: Home of the International Collaborative Centre for Carbon Futures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research focus: from the Newcastle Institute for Energy and Resources (NIER)</li> <li>• Research Focus: form the Renewable Energy Systems (RES) Laboratory</li> <li>• Priority Research Centre for Frontier Energy Technologies and Utilisation</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Energy in teaching and learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centre for Organics Electronics</li> <li>• Centre for Advanced Particle Processing &amp; Transport</li> <li>• Renewable Energy in Teaching and Learning</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>Ms Karen Marler asked if the research on energy generation was based on waste. Mr Thomas Levick stated yes, current and older research is ongoing based on generating heat.</p>	<p><b>Action 1:</b> Mr Levick to send details of research on energy generated by waste to Ms Marler.</p> <p><b>Action 2:</b> Mr Levick to send detail on the stability of the solar plastics to Mr Manning.</p>	

		<p>Mr Rick Banyard asked to know more about the solar film – had it been applied in a water environment such as around swimming pools and Grahamstown Dam to reduce evaporation.</p> <p>Mr Thomas Levick responded that the application of the solar film is limited to funding availability, which meant real life testing of the product was for small areas at the moment. It has been used on permanent structures, some of which covered large surface areas</p> <p>Dr Chris Dalton asked what the efficiency of the solar film was.</p> <p>Mr Thomas Levick responded it was currently around 1-2 %. It's the adaptability of the product that is its real potential – using plastic in a sustainable way has real relevance for the future.</p> <p>Mr Mark Manning asked what is the stability of the film.</p> <p>Mr Thomas Levick responded that development of the product was still underway to improve its performance within various environmental factors. He will send more detail to Mr Manning on this.</p>		
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EPA Intelligence and Analysis Team				
No	Agenda Item	Notes	Action/Decision	Status
2.2	Kieran Lynch, Manager Intelligence and Analysis EPA: Intelligence and Analysis Team – overview on how they interpret intel from the Environment Line to support Policy Development and Operations for Newcastle.	<p>Mr Kieran Lynch provided a power point presentation titled “Intelligence and Analysis Team – overview on how they interpret intel from the Environment Line to support Policy Development and Operations for Newcastle”. This presentation included:</p> <p>What is Intelligence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic</li> <li>• Tactical</li> <li>• Operational</li> <li>• Waste Crime and the Waste Crime Taskforce</li> <li>• Operational Intelligence and problem solving and products</li> <li>• What data from Newcastle tells us</li> </ul> <p>Mr Keith Craig asked whether the movement of trucks from NSW into Queensland to dump waste was an illegal activity. Mr Lynch responded No. There has been a lot of work done to move towards stopping it.</p> <p>Mr Rick Banyard stated that there must be better technology used through smart phones and associate Apps. The current system of the Enviroline log is too slow and complicated. It has to improve if the EPA do rely on intelligence from the community reporting issues. Mr Lynch responded that he agreed and that the EPA are working towards improving how people can report.</p> <p>Mr Chris Tola asked if the intelligence work done within the EPA ties in with NSW Police and associated gang activities in relation to organised crime waste problems. Mr Lynch responded yes, the EPA have a staff member that works at NSW Police each week to be keyed into known gang activities.</p> <p>Mr John Tate asked if this data collected by the EPA Intelligence Unit was available to the public. Mr Lynch responded no, the data the EPA collects is use to support their operations officers only.</p>	<p><b>Action 3:</b> a copy of Mr Lynchs’ report to be sent to all committee members.</p> <p><b>Action 4:</b> Update the committee on improvements the EPA will adopt to report pollution electronically.</p>	

		<p>Ms Karen Marler stated that the EPA is undergoing some major reviews around a Regulatory Transformation Process. This is aimed at enabling better reporting information for case management.</p> <p>Mr Keith Craig stated he wants the general community to know how reports are highly valued by the EPA – as he felt the general community members did not know this, so they weren't bothered to report issues.</p>		
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OEH presentation on the Newcastle Spring 2018 Air Quality Report				
No	Agenda Item	Notes	Action/Decision	Status
2.3	Loredana Warren, Senior Climate and Atmospheric Scientist, OEH: OEH presentation on the Newcastle Spring 2018 Air Quality Report	<p>Mrs Loredana Warren provided a power point presentation titled ‘Newcastle Air Quality Report Seasonal Analysis Spring 2018’. This presentation included:</p> <p>1 September 2018 to 30 November 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met: Newcastle had above average rainfall overall, with wet conditions in October and average conditions on September and November. Daytime temperatures were average, while very much above average temperatures overnight.</li> <li>• NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> &amp; NH<sub>3</sub>: No days over the benchmarks or assessment criterion</li> <li>• PM<sub>2.5</sub>: One day over the benchmark at Stockton on 22 November, due to a large fire in Port Stephens that occurred during a major dust storm event</li> <li>• PM<sub>10</sub>: 12 days over the benchmark <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Similar or less than previous spring seasons</li> <li>◦ Drought continues in most of NSW with widespread dust activity</li> <li>◦ Most extensive event on 22 November, an exceptional event due to long-range dust:</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>- 44 of 47 stations over the benchmark, with dust from SA and drought-affected NSW</p> <p>PM<sub>10</sub> &amp; PM<sub>2.5</sub> – annual averages 2015 to 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was an increase in particle levels in 2018 compared to three previous years due to long-range dust from drought-affected areas in NSW</li> <li>• Annual PM<sub>10</sub> levels exceeded the benchmark at Carrington, Mayfield and Stockton in 2018</li> <li>• Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Remained below the benchmark at Newcastle and Wallsend</li> <li>◦ Exceeded the benchmark at Beresfield and Mayfield</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Mr Rick Banyard asked if it was possible to quantify the three items shown as bumps Sea salt Dust</p>	<p><b>Action 5:</b> Update the Committee on improvement to the OEH website for air quality data.</p>	

		<p><b>Bushfires</b></p> <p>Ms Loredana Warren stated that models can be run. However, the peaks can be seen clearly in the seasonal graphs. A lot of data would be needed to do more than this, then reminded the committee that the Particle Characterisation Study was already completed recently – for one year.</p> <p>Ms Sheree Woodroffe stated that OEH, CSIRO and Cargill are currently working on air emission concentrations including dust at Stockton – this would be a good reference to see where air quality issues are currently at for Stockton.</p>		
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Koppers Update – PRP improvements at the site				
No	Agenda Item	Notes	Action/Decision	Status
2.4	Peter Jamieson, Unit Head, EPA: Koppers Update – PRP improvements at the site	<p>Mr Peter Jamieson provided a power point presentation titled ‘ Koppers Update – PRP improvements at the site‘. This presentation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A brief overview of the site and some background in the incident that has triggered the most recent PRP for Koppers</li> <li>• Summary of The Prevention Notice</li> <li>• The Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA)</li> <li>• The revised licence</li> <li>• PRS 25 – reducing volatiles further</li> <li>• PRS 26 – Emissions Monitoring</li> </ul> <p>Mr Rick Banyard asked if monitoring of benzene was done for ambient benzene at the Mayfield air quality monitoring station. Mr Peter Jamieson referred back to PRP 26 and how this was addressed on site at Koppers to decide how best to measure ambient monitoring.</p> <p>Mr Rick Banyard stated the community still wants benzene specifically monitoring in the OEH monitoring station at Mayfield – similar to Stockton having ammonia monitored. Why not benzene at Mayfield? Ms Karen Marler commented that this request would have to be looked at carefully, as benzene comes from traffic, so if benzene was detected at Mayfield – it may not mean Koppers. Any benzene detected may not be from industry emissions, but from background emissions. The EPA are still looking at ways to improve how monitoring is done.</p> <p>Mr Rick Banyard stated he wants air monitoring data from licensees on the public domain. Mr Peter Jamieson responded that it already is – as providing this information was part of the licence conditions. This information must be available on the licensee websites. Mr Rick Banyard responded that he wanted benzene monitored somewhere the community can see it and understand.</p>	<p><b>Action 6:</b> A report to be given to the Committee of the status of benzene monitoring in Newcastle. (*Note: this will be available only after a Report from Koppers is supplied to the EPA after April 2019).</p>	

Director Hunter Update				
No	Agenda Item	Notes	Action/Decision	Status
2.5	Karen Marler Director Hunter EPA: Update	Ms Karen Marler read from her notes to the Committee to give her Directors Report.	<p><b>Action 7:</b> a Copy of the report from Fire and Rescue on the progress and management of the coal pit fires at Kooragang Island to be send to Committee members.</p> <p><b>Action 8:</b> Provide a presentation to the Committee on “The EPA compliance policy and prosecution guidelines – step through the decision making process”.</p>	
<b>2.6</b>	<b>General Business</b>			
	Mr Rick Banyard stated he would like more time to address the response from AMSA re shipping emissions.	Mr Rick Banyard stated he would respond in writing, in preparation for the next Committee meeting.		
	Ms Sheree Woodroffe stated the ORICA remediation project has recently gained approval from the Department of Planning to install a cut off wall on site – and different contractors to do CAP.			