

MEETING No. 7

Newcastle Community Consultative Committee on the Environment (NCCCE)

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 16 April 2012 **Time:** 5:30 pm

File: FIL11/10927

Location: EPA, 117 Bull Street, Newcastle West

In attendance: John Tate (Chair); Zoe Rogers (Environment); Graham Woods (Industry); Nick Godfrey-Smith (Industry); Paul Thomas (Industry); Kate Johnson (Community); Keith Craig (Community); Paul McBain (Minister's Nominee); Adam Gilligan (Newcastle City Council)

Environment Protection Authority (EPA): Barry Buffier (Chair EPA); Gary Davey (Director North); Grahame Clarke (Manager Hunter Region) Jackie Teal (Regional Administration Officer), Leanne Graham (Project Officer)

Apologies None.

Meeting Record

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
Item 1.	Welcome from the Chair The Chair welcomed EPA senior staff and Committee Members
Item 2.	Apologies None
Item 3	Introduction of the EPA Board Chair and short response from the Board The Chair introduced Barry Buffier, recently appointed as EPA Board Chair. Barry Buffier explained that the EPA is a new statutory authority, separate from the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH). The EPA Board and the Minister for the Environment consider that NCCCE is central to community engagement by the EPA in the Newcastle area and that the Minister intends to attend a future meeting.
Item 4	Minutes from Previous Meeting Paul McBain requested a minor edit to Draft Meeting Minutes No. 6, Item 7, relating to wording in discussion of Action 7 from Meeting No. 5. Amendment noted and accepted. Meeting Minutes No. 6 adopted as a true and accurate record.
Item 5	Actions Arising from Previous Meeting Action 1. Paul McBain has prepared a motion and a letter for NCCCE to consider. Further discussion was deferred for next meeting, in the interest of time constraints.

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
Item 6	<p>Presentation – Newcastle Air Quality</p> <p>Grahame Clarke, Manager - Hunter Region EPA, summarised the findings of the air quality investigations by EPA/OEH, which were requested by the Minister for the Environment in 2011. The Newcastle Community Air Quality Forum, held on 16 March 2012, reported the findings to the wider community. The three presentations given at the Forum, and three of four associated reports, are now available on the Committee’s webpage. The main findings were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality in the Lower Hunter generally is better than in the Sydney and Illawarra regions. • The majority of monitoring results for particle pollution, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide are within the health-based national goals set by the National Environment Protection Measure for Ambient Air Quality. • Exceedences of national goals for particles mostly are associated with bushfires or dust storms. • Exceedences of national goals for nitrogen dioxide occasionally occur in locations where emissions from the port and industrial activities combine with motor vehicle emissions. • Results of air quality monitoring at OEH-operated and industry-operated sites show similar long term trends and infrequent elevated concentrations. Results of continuous monitoring at OEH-operated sites are accessible on the OEH website. • Results of non-continuous monitoring at industry-operated sites have not been easily accessible for the public. Industry-operated sites monitor air quality in according with the specific requirements of the premises’ Environment Protection Licence. Summary monitoring results are reported to the EPA. • The expected increase in port activity and the aging technology of industry-operated monitoring sites present an opportunity to review the air quality monitoring network, focusing on the port and surrounding suburbs. <p>The NCCCE discussed the contribution to air emissions made by specific mobile and industrial sources and the options for reducing emissions, including the role of targeted pollution reduction programs.</p> <p>Mr Clarke advised that, at the request of the Minister for the Environment, the air quality reports discussed above are currently being reviewed by the NSW Health Air Pollution Expert Advisory Committee which advises the Minister for Health. The outcome of this independent review will inform the design of the air quality monitoring network. Part of constructing the new network may include the rationalisation of existing industry-operated sites.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that a major focus of the NCCCE is on the establishment of the air quality monitoring network and ensuring the flow of information between the community and the Minister for the Environment.</p> <p>ACTION 1. EPA to develop a Draft Project Plan, including a critical path and time frames, for the establishment of an industry funded air quality monitoring network for Newcastle LGA for presentation to the next NCCCE meeting.</p>

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
Item 7	<p>Committee Workplan The Chair advised the Committee to discuss the Workplan in terms of the five standing items below (refer to Meeting Minutes No. 6, Item 8).</p>
7.1	<p>7.1 Environmental concerns with existing industries Wickham - water discharge from industries into storm water system in the mixed use industrial areas. Paul McBain conveyed Wickham residents' concern. Adam Gilligan advised that industries are not permitted to discharge polluted water to the storm water system. Community members observing discharge are advised to contact Council.</p>
7.2	<p>7.2 Environmental concerns with proposed industries Port Waratah Coal Service's (PWCS) proposed fourth coal export terminal in Newcastle (T4 Project) Zoe Rogers conveyed the community's view that the exhibition period for the T4 coal loader project was inadequate, primarily due to the size and complexity of the supporting documentation (4000+ pages was cited). She proposed that the Committee ask the Minister for the Environment to request a 28 day extension from the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure. A resolution was passed 5 in favour 4 against. ACTION 2: EPA on behalf of NCCCE requests that the Minister for the Environment makes representation to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, to extend by an additional 28 days, the exhibition period for the Port Waratah Coal Services' T4 Project. ACTION 3: Nick Godfrey-Smith (PWCS) to provide to NCCCE the information brochure produced and distributed by PWCS to promote community awareness of consultation process and the impact assessment program for the T4 project.</p>
7.3	<p>7.3 Environmental planning matters No further discussion.</p>
7.4	<p>7.4 Environmental management issues, including health impacts, of the methyl bromide incident at the Carrington grain terminal Keith Craig conveyed community concern and noted that methyl bromide is a toxic substance, as well as an ozone depleting substance, identified by the Montreal Protocol. KC requested details of the EPA's response to the recent incident. Grahame Clarke explained that the grain terminal currently is permitted to use methyl bromide, in the absence of an effective biocide substitute, to meet international quarantine requirements for grain export and handling. Active investigation continues and an incident report will inform further action. The EPA encourages concerned community members to contact the EPA Environment Line (131555). If people require a reply or a call back regarding their report, callers should advise the Environment Line operator. Members of the public are welcome to contact the EPA on 131555 if they wish to find out what action was taken</p>

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
	<p>in response to their concern or complaint.</p> <p>The community’s need to be informed during environmental incidents Paul McBain suggested that the EPA consider an improved method of providing the community with regular communications during environmental incidents. The Committee discussed and debated the option of a standard format for EPA responses.</p> <p>ACTION 4: NCCCE Sub-Committee drafts a motion asking the EPA to improve regular public communications during environmental incidents.</p>
7.5	<p>7.5 Environmental monitoring and regulation No further discussion due to time constraints.</p>
Item 8	<p>General Business</p> <p>Naphthalene odour incident, Koppers Carbon Material and Chemicals Pty Ltd. Keith Craig conveyed on-going community concern regarding the recent incident. Grahame Clarke advised that active investigation continues (refer to Minutes of Meeting No. 6, Item 1). The EPA has requested a report from Koppers.</p> <p>Pacific Carbon Pty Ltd, Kooragang, emission of dioxin Keith Craig conveyed community concern that this industry may emit toxic air pollutants such as dioxins and furans. Further, the community expressed concern regarding the regulation of the industry by Newcastle City Council (NCC). The community requested monitoring data from NCC. However, no monitoring data has been provided. Mr Craig requested that NCC provide monitoring data to NCCCE for review.</p> <p>Adam Gilligan confirmed that management of Pacific Carbon is Council’s responsibility and took the question on notice. Mr Gilligan advised that he would need to check the premises’ development consent conditions regarding monitoring and reporting.</p> <p>ACTION 5: Adam Gilligan to report back on the status of monitoring requirements for Pacific Carbon.</p> <p>Crawfords Freightliners Sandgate, storage of ammonium nitrate above approved limit Keith Craig conveyed community concern regarding potentially explosive ammonium nitrate, stored at levels above the company’s approved limit. Further, Mr Craig expressed concern regarding regulation of ammonium nitrate storage in the local government area and the effectiveness of regulation. He reported that in South Australia, the EPA and Workcover prevented a residential development, proposed for Port Adelaide, due to the proximity of ammonium nitrate storage.</p> <p>The Chair advised NCCCE to take the matter on notice. The Chair noted that this matter raises a broader question of the extent to which NCCCE becomes involved in regulatory responses. The Chair recommended that NCCCE review any relevant reports that are made available by the responsible agencies, rather than overloading</p>

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
	<p>the Committee's agenda with new issues.</p> <p>Stockton Community Action Group (SCAG) Meeting</p> <p>Keith Craig advised that SCAG plans to hold a community meeting, at a date to be confirmed, and intends to invite industries and agencies to address the community.</p> <p>The Chair deferred other Agenda Items to the next meeting.</p>
Item 9	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>Date: Wednesday 9 May 2012</p> <p>Location: EPA Conference Room, Ground Floor, 117 Bull Street, Newcastle West</p> <p>Time: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm</p>
Meeting ended 19:55	

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Action Item Reference	Action Item Description	Due Date	Responsibility
ACTION 1	EPA to develop a Draft Project Plan, including a critical path and time frames, for the establishment of an industry funded air quality monitoring network for Newcastle LGA for presentation at the next NCCCE meeting.	9 May	EPA
ACTION 2	EPA on behalf of NCCCE requests that the Minister for the Environment makes representation to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure to extend by an additional 28 days the exhibition period for the Port Waratah Coal Services' T4 Project.	ASAP	EPA
ACTION 3	Nick Godfrey-Smith (PWCS) to provide to NCCCE the information brochure produced and distributed by PWCS to promote community awareness of consultation process and the impact assessment program for the T4 project.	ASAP	N. Godfrey-Smith
ACTION 4	NCCCE Sub-Committee drafts a motion asking the EPA to improve regular public communications during environmental incidents.	9 May	P. McBain
ACTION 5	Adam Gilligan to report back on the status of monitoring requirements for Pacific Carbon.	13 June	A. Gilligan