

## MEETING No. 9

### Newcastle Community Consultative Committee on the Environment (NCCCE)

#### MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** 13 June 2012      **Time:** 5:30 pm

**File:** FIL11/10927

**Location:** EPA, 117 Bull Street, Newcastle West

**In attendance:** John Tate (Chair); Keith Craig (Community); Adam Gilligan (Newcastle City Council); Nick Godfrey-Smith (Industry); Kate Johnson (Community); Paul McBain (Minister's Nominee); Zoe Rogers (Environment); Graham Woods (Industry)  
Environment Protection Authority (EPA): Mark Hartwell (Head Regional Operations); Leanne Graham (Project Officer)

**Apologies** Paul Thomas (Industry)

#### Meeting Record

Agenda Item	Meeting Details
Item 1.	<p><b>Welcome from the Chair</b> The Chair welcomed Committee Members and EPA staff.</p>
Item 2.	<p><b>Apologies</b> Paul Thomas (Industry)</p>
Item 3	<p><b>Minutes from Previous Meeting</b> Meeting No. 8 Minutes adopted as a true and accurate record.</p>
Item 4	<p><b>Actions Arising from Previous Meeting</b></p> <p>Action 1: Adam Gilligan reported that a joint audit, by Newcastle City Council (NCC) and EPA, of Pacific Carbon, Kooragang Island had been conducted. It was noted that NCC is the appropriate regulatory authority.</p> <p>Action 2: Mark Hartwell (EPA) reported that Orica has acquired the equipment and the site shed for its new air quality monitoring station at Stockton. Construction will commence when Orica and NCC finalise a land access agreement. Orica anticipates the site will be operational by July 2012.</p> <p>Action 4: The meeting noted that Zoe Rogers had provided a summary of submissions by professionals and academics to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure regarding the proposed Port Waratah Coal Services Coal Terminal 4 (T4).</p> <p>Action 5: The NCCCE endorsed a draft flyer for the Community Forum, planned for 21 June 2012, subject to correcting spelling and broadening the reference to dust sources.</p>

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	<p>Action 6: NCCCE endorsed the draft Committee Procedures document, subject to minor edits (that is, proposed agenda items to be forwarded to the Chair two working days before the meeting; and minor formatting of template by EPA Secretariat.</p> <p>Action 4 of Meeting No. 7 (16 April 2012): Paul McBain presented on the information that would satisfy the community's need to know about pollution incidents at the time of the event, suggesting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What has occurred or if not known, then what is the investigation process, including timing?</li> <li>• Are there any immediate health concerns (people) that require action by individuals?</li> <li>• What is the impact on people or the environment?</li> <li>• Has there been a breach of licence (or other regulations)?</li> <li>• What process is the EPA planning on undertaking (e.g. no further action, warning, legal process)</li> <li>• When will there be an update?</li> </ul> <p>Mark Hartwell noted that combat agencies, not the EPA, coordinate the response to major emergencies that endanger life, property or the environment.</p> <p>Adam Gilligan noted that media releases on the NSW Police website might provide a model for an EPA response to non-emergency incidents.</p> <p><b>ACTION 1. Paul McBain and Adam Gilligan to prepare a draft communication to support a motion to asking the EPA to improve regular public communications during non-emergency environmental incidents.</b></p>
Item 5	<p><b>Progress Report - Newcastle Air Quality Monitoring Network</b></p> <p>Mark Hartwell reported that the EPA has briefed a contractor regarding requirements for the assessment of potential sites for the air quality monitoring stations. He also noted that the Expert Advisory Panel advising the NSW Minister for Health is still considering the four reports prepared by the EPA. EPA anticipates receiving advice from the Expert Panel by late July.</p>
Item 6	<p><b>Committee Standing Agenda Items</b></p>
6.1	<p><b>6.1 Environmental concerns with existing industries</b></p> <p><b>6.1.1 Metso Minerals, Carrington</b></p> <p>Paul McBain reported that community members in Maryville and Carrington expressed concern regarding development approval by Newcastle City Council for Metso Minerals activities. He noted that the air impact assessment predicted exceedences of the criteria for xylene concentrations, resulting from spray booth operations.</p> <p><b>ACTION 2. Adam Gilligan to report on the development approval and regulation of Metso operations by Newcastle City Council.</b></p>

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<p><b>6.2</b></p>	<p><b>6.2 Environmental concerns with proposed industries</b></p> <p><b>6.2.1 Port Waratah Coal Services (PWCS) 4<sup>th</sup> Coal Terminal (T4 Proposal)</b></p> <p>Zoe Rogers presented a letter to the Chair, and copied to him as Lord Mayor, written by representatives of seven local community groups requesting that NCCCE facilitate a public forum on the T4 Proposal.</p> <p>Various views were expressed about whether such a forum was within the terms of reference of the committee. The Chair noted that as Mayor he would support a public debate, if there was agreement from NCC and the T4 proponent. Community representatives proposed to write to the Director General of NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure, asking to be informed if a Planning Assessment Commission is appointed for the T4 Proposal. NCCCE industry representatives objected to the proposed letter. The Chair suggested that interested NCCCE members draft a letter for the NCCCE to consider. Further discussion was deferred until the next meeting.</p> <p><b>ACTION 3. Zoe Rogers to draft a letter to the Director General of the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure, regarding a Planning Assessment Commission for the T4 proposal.</b></p>
<p><b>6.3</b></p>	<p><b>6.3 Environmental planning matters</b></p> <p>No discussion.</p>
<p><b>6.4</b></p>	<p><b>6.4 Environmental management issues, including health impacts</b></p> <p><b>6. 4.1 Minutes of Dust, Noise and Vibration Forum, 4 November 2010</b></p> <p>Zoe Rogers noted that a Dust, Noise and Vibration Forum was held on 4 November 2010 to discuss dust pollution in and around Newcastle. Zoe conveyed ongoing community concern about coal dust around the port and rail corridors and asked the EPA to provide minutes of the Forum and subsequent meetings between stakeholders.</p> <p>The EPA advised that the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) coordinated the meetings and recommended that community members contact DPC regarding the minutes of those meetings. The EPA noted that the Newcastle air quality monitoring network will provide reliable data on air quality in the inner city and port related suburbs of Newcastle.</p> <p><b>6.4.2 PM<sub>10</sub> Concentrations in Stockton</b></p> <p>Keith Craig noted high PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations at the Orica-operated air quality monitoring station at Stockton. The site takes a 24-hour sample of PM<sub>10</sub>, every 6 days. Three results from March and April were at, or above, the level of 50 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m<sup>3</sup>).</p> <p>The <i>National Environment Protection Measure for Ambient Air Quality</i> (National Environment Protection Council, 1998) sets a national health-based goal for PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations at 50 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, allowing for 5 exceedences per year. KC expressed concern that high concentrations may occur on days outside the sampling period and</p>

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	<p>that the sixth-day data set provides an inadequate indication of background air quality for proposed developments. KC requested that the high PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations be reported to Minister for the Environment; and that the EPA reviews the data and reports back to the NCCCE.</p> <p>Mark Hartwell advised the NEPM goal was designed based on the use of Hi Volume Samplers running on a 6 day cycle. Also no exceedances have been reported in May. Subsequent to this it was noted by KC the readings below the 50 ug/m<sup>3</sup> limit in May were mostly associated with winds not coming from Kooragang Island which emphasises the importance of relating pollution data with weather conditions especially wind direction.</p>
6.5	<p><b>6.5 Environmental monitoring and regulation</b></p> <p>No discussion.</p>
Item 7	<p><b>General Business</b></p> <p>Zoe Rogers conveyed community concern about the drilling of coal seam gas pilot wells at Fullerton Cove, by Dart Energy, approved by the Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities and the NSW Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services. The Chair noted that Dart Energy recently briefed Newcastle City Council on the work and agreed to provide documentation to the Committee.</p> <p><b>ACTION 4. Chair to provide NCCCE with information on exploration drilling for coal seam gas at Fullerton Cove, as presented to Newcastle City Council by Dart Energy.</b></p> <p>Graham Wood (Industry) noted that a recent report confirmed the link between diesel exhaust emissions and cancer [The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), part of the World Health Organization, classified diesel engine exhaust as carcinogenic to humans, based on sufficient evidence that exposure is associated with an increased risk for lung cancer (IARC, 12/06/12 <a href="http://www.iarc.fr">http://www.iarc.fr</a>).</p> <p>Committee members agreed to communicate, via email, to finalise procedures for facilitating the round table discussions, planned as part of the Community Forum on Environmental Regulation and Licensing, scheduled for 21 June 2012.</p>
Item 8	<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Date:</b> Wednesday 11 July 2012</p> <p><b>Location:</b> EPA Conference Room, Ground Floor, 117 Bull Street, Newcastle West</p> <p><b>Time:</b> 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm</p>
<p><b>Meeting ended 19:50</b></p>	

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Action Item Reference	Action Item Description	Due Date	Responsibility
<b>ACTION 1</b>	Paul McBain and Adam Gilligan to prepare a draft communication to support a motion to asking the EPA to improve regular public communications during non-emergency environmental incidents.	11 July	PMcB, AG
<b>ACTION 2</b>	Adam Gilligan to report on the development approval and regulation of Metso operations by Newcastle City Council.	11 July	AG
<b>ACTION 3</b>	Zoe Rogers to draft a letter to the Director General of the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure, regarding a Planning Assessment Commission for the T4 proposal.	11 July	ZR
<b>ACTION 4</b>	Chair to provide NCCCE with information on drilling for coal seam gas at Fullerton Cove, as presented to Newcastle City Council by Dart Energy.	11 July	Chair JT