



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW CHAIR APPOINTED FOR AIR QUALITY NETWORK

Environment Minister Robyn Parker today announced the appointment of John Tate as the new independent chair of the Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network (UHAQMN) Advisory Committee.

Ms Parker said that Mr Tate has a strong commitment to improving air quality in the Hunter region, and is currently the Chair of the Newcastle Community Consultative Committee on the Environment (NCCCE).

“Mr Tate has played a key role as chair of the NCCCE in helping the community to understand air quality monitoring and ensure the community is better informed and more engaged about air quality as a complex environmental issue,” Ms Parker said.

“He has overseen the NCCCE’s contribution to the planning for the Lower Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network, which is partly modelled on the Upper Hunter network.

“Mr Tate is well respected in the community and continues to work hard representing the community’s interests to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH).

“Mr Geoffrey Sharrock, Dr Catherine Chicken, Dr Suzanne Laucht and Councillor Sue Moore have also been appointed to the committee.”

“The committee’s membership represents a broad range of community and industry views and ensures all issues are carefully considered.

“Air quality in the Hunter is a high priority for the NSW Government as it is for the community and we welcome and encourage discussion on air quality issues.”

“The UHAQMN committee plays an important role in representing the community. The Committee has also provided valuable advice to the EPA on new regulations introduced in early 2013 regarding industry funding of the UHAQMN.

“The network has been a major initiative that is providing near real time air quality data to the community. The network also provides long term data to assist government in planning and responding to air quality changes in the Upper Hunter.

“OEH operates 14 air quality monitoring stations in the network and this information will continue to contribute to a broader understanding of air quality in the region and the government’s programs in response to any issues.”

Ms Parker also acknowledged the previous Chair, Cathy Cole, for her efforts in leading the Committee.

“As Chair, Ms Cole played a significant role in the establishment, implementation and monitoring of the Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network.”

More information can be found at:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/aqms/upperhunter.htm>

To find out more about the Advisory Committee and to view the Terms of Reference visit: <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/UHAQMCtee/index.htm>