

MEETING No. 19
Newcastle Community Consultative Committee on the Environment
(NCCCE)

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 10 July 2013 **Time:** 5:30 pm

File: FIL11/10927

Location: EPA Conference Room, Ground Floor,
 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), Graham Woods (Industry), Zoe Rogers (Environment)
 Barry Buffier (EPA Chair and CEO), Gary Davey (EPA Director North), Mitchell Bennett (EPA A/Manager Hunter Region), Ann-Louise Crotty (EPA Manager Air Policy) Frank Garofalow (EPA Manager Infrastructure Metropolitan) Matt Riley (Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) Director Atmospheric and Climate Science) Leanne Graham (EPA Project Officer, Hunter Region)

Apologies Paul Thomas (Industry),
 Sylvia Bell (EPA Director Stakeholder Engagement and Governance)

Meeting Record

| Agenda Item | Meeting Details |
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| Item 1 | Welcome and Introductions The Chair welcomed Committee Members, presenters and EPA staff. |
| Item 2 | Apologies As above. |
| Item 3 | Minutes from Previous Meeting Minutes of Meeting No.18 (12 June 2013) adopted as a true and accurate record. |
| Item 4 | Actions Arising from Previous Meetings <u>Meeting No.18 (12Jun13) Recommendation 1:</u> Completed. <i>Lower Hunter Air Quality Review of Ambient Air Quality Data, March 2013</i> published on NCCCE webpage. <u>Meeting No.18 (12Jun13) Recommendation 2:</u> Completed. <i>Lower Hunter Air Quality Review of Ambient Air Quality Data, April 2013</i> , expanded discussion of the incidents of elevated levels of particulate matter, before publication. <u>Meeting No.18 (12Jun13) Recommendation 3:</u> In progress. EPA investigating adding a discussion of fluctuations in ammonia levels in forthcoming monthly air quality reports. |

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| | <p><u>Meeting No.18 (12Jun13) Recommendation 4:</u> EPA noted the concerns of NCCCE community and environment representatives regarding the second rail corridor dust study by the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC). Refer to Item 5 below.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.18 (12Jun13) Recommendation 5:</u> EPA noted the documents tabled by NCCCE environment representative in response to the second rail corridor dust study by the ARTC. EPA report back, refer to Item 5 below.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.18 (12Jun13) Recommendation 6:</u> Completed. EPA to report on the future role and function of the NCCCE, at Meeting No.20, on 14 August 2013.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.18 (12Jun13) Action 1:</u> Chair deferred to Item 10, discussion of community engagement by local industries.</p> <p><u>Meeting No.18 (12Jun13) Action 2:</u> Deferred to Meeting No.20 (14Aug13). NCCCE to discuss NCCCE achievements and priorities for action.</p> |
| <p>Item 5</p> | <p>Update on Particle Monitoring Study by Australian Rail Track Corporation</p> <p>Frank Garofalow outlined the background and current status of particle pollution monitoring by the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC).</p> <p>In 2012, ARTC conducted a pilot particle monitoring study, as a Pollution Reduction Program (PRP) under its Environment Protection Licence, as required by the EPA. The purpose of the study was to determine whether coal trains required covering. The study was not intended to be a health assessment.</p> <p>The EPA accepted the report that concluded that coal trains did not contribute significantly higher levels of particles than other trains. Monitoring occurred during a relatively wetter period and the EPA required further monitoring when it was drier and warmer.</p> <p>The second study monitored from November 2012 to January 2013, a drier period, with significant rain only on the last two days. The report was completed in March 2013.</p> <p>The EPA and the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) reviewed the report and provided comments back to ARTC in early May 2013. In response to the comments, the contractor made changes to the report and identified and corrected errors. ARTC published the final report in late May 2013.</p> <p>Mr Garofalow noted that it is normal practice for contractors to make changes between draft and final reports. He outlined the specifics of the changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EPA identified that dust remained entrained (suspended in the air), potentially impacting on dust levels associated with the next train. • To account for the longer period of dust entrainment, a number of single train passes were re-classified as multiple train passes. • This resulted in a decreased number of single trains and an increased number of multiple trains. • The recounting and recalculation of the figures resulted in some minor changes to the conclusions, but did not change the overall conclusion that coal trains did not contribute significantly higher levels of particles, compared to other trains. • The changes between the draft and final reports amended the size of the impacts due to the extended period of dust entrainment. |

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| | <p>On behalf of the EPA, OEH commissioned a peer review which raised issues about the statistical analysis. In response, the EPA requested that the Deputy Premier ask the NSW Chief Scientist to appoint an independent statistician to review the statistical analysis. The EPA will report publically on findings from the Chief Scientist's referral.</p> <p>In response to questions, the EPA advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the second study, there were initial problems with data capture during the first month of sampling. The sampling period was extended to compensate. • Gaps in measurements typically occur during data download. Therefore, download was timed for a different hour each day. • The monitoring period was 62 days with a six-second sampling frequency in the second study, compared with 30 days and 30 seconds in the pilot study. So there was a much larger data set from the second study. • The second study sampled at only one site, Metford, rather than two sites, as in the pilot study. The Metford site has a train counter and a diversity of trains, which the study required for scientific rigour. The Mayfield site was unable to provide reliable train type data. • The study question defined the method. The study investigated whether to cover loaded coal trains, rather than whether trains generate particles. • The study focused on invisible fine particles, measured as PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, which potentially pass into the lungs. • The EPA follows a staged approach to scientific investigation. If the Chief Scientist's referral recommends another statistical analysis, which finds a significant difference in particle levels between loaded coal trains and other trains, then more detailed investigation will follow. Other questions that are being asked by the community could be built into the study design. <p>The community representatives specifically suggested involvement of the community in the initial stages through to the data analysis, if further studies are required.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Mr Garofalow.</p> |
| Item 6 | <p>EPA Air Quality Projects 2013-2014</p> <p>Ann-Louise Crotty outlined EPA air quality projects for 2013/14. The projects will expand the evidence-base for actions to reduce sources of PM_{2.5}, the particle matter most associated with health impacts. The EPA sought NCCCE advice on how to widen community involvement and understanding of the projects.</p> <p>The projects include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Newcastle Particle Characterisation Study to determine the chemical components of particles measures as PM_{2.5} and seasonal variations. The EPA invited NCCCE to nominate a person with a scientific background to join the project team and contribute to the study design and tender selection process. 2. Lower Hunter Community Information, Communication and Research Project to integrate air pollution education and information programs via participatory research. EPA sees NCCCE as a conduit to involve the wider community in the development and implementation of a major air quality research project. |

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| | <p>3. Update to the NSW Air Emissions Inventory for 2013 and development of a user-friendly web tool, with input from NCCCE. Commencing in 2014, the web will provide the community with an annual review of coal mining emissions.</p> <p>4. Woodsmoke Program to assist local councils to raise awareness of woodsmoke health impacts and how to reduce woodsmoke, and</p> <p>5. Clean Machine Programs to reduce off-road diesel emissions by improving fleet engines and workplace practices.</p> <p>ACTION 1: EPA to brief NCCCE about the Newcastle Particle Characterisation Study at the next meeting.</p> <p>ACTION 2: EPA to brief NCCCE about the Lower Hunter Community Information, Communication and Research Project at the next meeting.</p> |
| Item 7 | <p>OEH Report on Stockton Air Quality Monitoring Results, 13 October 2012 to 1 February 2013</p> <p>Matt Riley responded to the <i>Stockton Air Quality Monitoring Station Report No.1</i>, prepared by NCCCE community members. (Refer to Minutes Meeting No.15, 13 February 2013, Item 7 and Action 1).</p> <p>Mr Riley presented an analysis of two events when the Stockton air quality monitoring station recorded elevated levels of PM₁₀. Mr Riley noted that the example demonstrated that improved understanding can be achieved with communication, access to data and working together as a group.</p> <p>The analysis used a back trajectory model (NOAA HYSPLIT) to show the path travelled by a parcel of air. The model is one of many tools used by OEH to interpret air quality monitoring results.</p> <p>The model results demonstrated that the air with the elevated PM₁₀ concentrations travelled over the ocean and arrived at Stockton in an onshore north-easterly wind. Therefore, it is likely that the air carried a high concentration of sea salt particles.</p> <p>NCCCE representatives noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the importance of interpreting and understanding the influences on air pollution levels before drawing conclusions about likely sources; • the educational role of the monthly air quality reports; and • that bringing the community into the scientific process assists the public to evaluate the risk of local air quality issues. <p>The Chair thanked Mr Riley and noted the potential for NCCCE to assist the wider community to understand air quality monitoring data.</p> |
| Item 8 | <p>Outcomes of Workshop on Air, Science, Policy and Communication, held on 12 April 2013</p> <p>Gary Davey presented a summary list and a full transcription of workshop outcomes, which recommend ways that the EPA can improve communication on air quality issues.</p> <p>ACTION 3: EPA to report to NCCCE on priority outcomes for action from the workshop on air science, policy and communication, at the next meeting.</p> <p>ACTION 4: NCCCE members to identify top six outcomes for action from the workshop for discussion, at the next meeting.</p> |

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| <p>Item 9</p> | <p>Progress Report – Newcastle Air Quality Monitoring Network The EPA recapped that discussions with industries failed to reach consensus on the funding models for the air quality monitoring network in the Newcastle area. The EPA intends to accept the Hunter Business Chamber’s (HBC) offer to facilitate further discussions. Major industries are members of HBC.</p> |
| <p>Item 10</p> | <p>General Business</p> <p>Paul McBain, the Minister’s nominee, opened discussion regarding NCCCE’s function to improve communication between industry and the community (Refer to Meeting No.18, 12Jun13, Action 1 and NCCCE Terms of Reference http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/NewcastleCttee/termsOfReference.htm).</p> <p>Nick Godfrey-Smith, industry representative, reported that Port Waratah Coal Services holds regular meetings with a range of community members and maintains a constant flow of information to the community. Feedback is positive.</p> <p>Keith Craig, community representative and member of Orica’s Community Reference Group (OCRG), reported that the OGRG originally met monthly and now meets quarterly. OCRG regularly issues updates and community newsletters. Air quality monitoring data is available online (at http://stocktonairqualitymonitoring.com/). Orica sponsors a range of local community events in addition to sporting events.</p> <p>The Chair re-iterated the potential role of the NCCCE as a conduit to the community, to fulfil the opportunities for wider community engagement in the development and implementation of the proposed air quality projects for the Hunter Region. The NCCCE confirmed that the opportunities offered by the air quality projects meet the committee’s aspirations.</p> <p>NCCCE acknowledged the need for the EPA to engage with the wider community in other ways, not only via the NCCCE.</p> <p>ACTION 5: NCCCE to further discuss the committee’s role in improving communication between industry and the community.</p> |
| <p>Item 11</p> | <p>Next Meeting</p> <p>Date: Wednesday, 14 August 2013</p> <p>Location: EPA Conference Room, Ground Floor, 117 Bull Street, Newcastle West</p> <p>Time: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm</p> |
| <p>Meeting ended at 7:35 pm</p> | |

ACTION ITEM LOG

| | ACTION ITEM DESCRIPTION/ RECOMMENDATION | DUE DATE | RESP |
|-------------------------------------|--|----------|----------------------------|
| MEETING NO. 18, 12 June 2013 | | | |
| ACTIONS | | | |
| 1 | NCCCE members to bring to the next NCCCE meeting current examples of community engagement by local industries. | 14Aug13 | NCCCE |
| 2 | NCCCE members to bring to the next NCCCE meeting views and suggestions on the NCCCE's achievements and priorities for action. | 14Aug13 | NCCCE |
| MEETING NO. 19, 10 July 2013 | | | |
| ACTIONS | | | |
| 1: | EPA to brief NCCCE about the Newcastle Particle Characterisation Study at the next meeting. | 14Aug13 | EPA Air Policy |
| 2 | EPA to brief NCCCE about the Lower Hunter Community Information, Communication and Research Project at the next meeting. | 14Aug13 | EPA Stakeholder Engagement |
| 3 | EPA to report to NCCCE on priority outcomes for action from the workshop on air science, policy and communication, at the next meeting | 14Aug13 | EPA |
| 4 | NCCCE members to identify top six outcomes for action from the workshop for discussion, at the next meeting | 14Aug13 | NCCCE |
| 5 | NCCCE to further discuss the committee's role in improving communication between industry and the community. | 14Aug13 | NCCCE |