

NAMOI REGION AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NRAQAC)

DATE: 14 JUNE 2018

TIME: 2:10PM

LOCATION: GOLF CLUB, BOGGABRI

MINUTES

PRESENT	David Ross, Chair	Colleen Fuller, Community Representative Gunnedah LGA
	Adam Gilligan, Regional Director North, EPA	Peter Forbes, Health Safety and Environment Manager, Idemitsu Australia Resources
	Megan Prowse, Secretariat, EPA	Donna Ausling, Director Environmental and Economic Development Services, Liverpool Plains Shire Council
	Matt Riley, Director Climate & Atmospheric Science, OEH	Catherine Collyer, Community Representative Narrabri LGA
	Lindsay Fulloon, Manager Regional Operations Armidale, EPA	Carolyn Hunt, Manager Development & Planning, Gunnedah Shire Council
	Rebecca Scrivener, Senior Operations Officer Armidale, EPA	Scott Thompson, Senior Regional Air Quality Monitoring Officer, OEH
	Leah Cook, Team Leader Compliance, DPE	Craig Dalton, Public Health Physician, Hunter New England Health
	Kirsten Gollogly, General Manager - Health, Safety, Environment & Communities, Whitehaven Coal	
APOLOGIES	Marcela Lopez, Manager Environmental Services, Narrabri Shire Council	

	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
1.	David Ross and Adam Gilligan welcomed the attendees. Adam thanked David for chairing the Namoi Region Air Quality Advisory Committee and offered an acknowledgment of Country. Introductions were performed around the room.	
2.	<p>Presentation by Adam Gilligan and Lindsay Fulloon: Existing Air Quality Monitoring Networks and Background to Namoi Region Network.</p> <p>Adam explained the EPA's Leader, Partner, Protector approach and spoke of the EPA's collaboration with sister agency OEH to operate the monitoring networks. Adam talked about the NRAQAC being a commitment to facilitate discussion and direction for air quality monitoring in the Namoi Region and not belonging to the EPA. EPA recognises the need for all voices to be heard in community and have the opportunity to contribute to the conversation and direction of air quality,</p>	

<p>hence the establishment of NRAQAC. Adam also spoke of the success of the role of the Upper Hunter and Newcastle Committees in building collaborative partnerships in air quality monitoring.</p> <p>General discussion: Brief explanation of wind roses, properties having their own weather stations and local data. Community representatives/land holders being encouraged to report back to meetings with local knowledge and information.</p> <p>Presentation by Lindsay Fulloon: Lindsay explained the Todoroski and Ramboll studies and the NRAQAC Terms of Reference. Lindsay reiterated the EPA's desire to see all positions on the committee filled and asked for assistance in relation to this.</p> <p>General discussion: Relating to stakeholder representatives. In lieu of a representative from NSW Farmers, Kirsten Gollogly suggested considering Jock Laurie, NSW Land and Water Commissioner.</p> <p>General discussion: Relating to a meeting schedule. Cath Collyer suggested the NRAQAC meet quarterly.</p> <p>General discussion about meeting format and frequency: Matt Riley spoke of the Hunter committee's commitment and how much he has enjoyed working with them. He stated his personal commitment to working with the Namoi Region Committee. Adam Gilligan highlighted that the real value would come from strategic discussion within this forum.</p> <p>David Ross spoke about the desire for joint solutions and the value of the experience individuals bring to the meetings. He reiterated the fact that the committees are not a one-size-fits-all approach and that he is keen for all members to feel involved and engaged. David also reminded members that complaints regarding air quality do not come to the NRAQAC forum. Lindsay Fulloon informed members that to report environmental incidents, people should contact the Environment Line on 131555.</p> <p>Kirsten Gollogly and Peter Forbes asked that people contact industry directly should they have a complaint.</p> <p>Leah Cook advised that if people contact industry with a complaint but fail to receive a response, then the next course of action should be to contact a relevant Government agency.</p>	<p>Members to review the Terms of Reference</p> <p>Adam Gilligan to follow up with Jock Laurie re: representation on the NRAQAC. Cath Collyer to pass details of NSW Farmers' representative to Rebecca Scrivener or Megan Prowse</p> <p>Draft minutes to be released within 2 weeks of a meeting. Comments to be received within a further 2 weeks. No response denotes acceptance. Presentations to be uploaded to the EPA website with the link shared in the minutes. If committee members are approached by the media, media are to be directed to the EPA or Chair. No committee member is to speak on behalf of the committee.</p> <p>Committee members to review all links relating to previous meeting.</p>
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	<p>Question – Colleen Fuller. Colleen asked if Rail Corp could be invited to attend a meeting due to the number of complaints and queries. Adam Gilligan advised that Rail Corp could be invited to attend as a guest as well as present.</p> <p>Question – Catherine Collyer asked if it was possible to have contact with Upper Hunter Committee members to learn and discuss similar issues</p> <p>David Ross spoke about the importance of sharing information from these meetings with external networks. General discussion re: meeting minutes, presentations and media.</p> <p>Rebecca Scrivener outlined the remuneration process. David Ross spoke about pecuniary interests and the process for declaration. General discussion.</p>	<p>Adam Gilligan to invite Rail Corp to attend NRAQAC</p> <p>EPA agreed and could provide contacts</p> <p>Committee members are to declare any pecuniary interests via a form, or as their circumstances change in future.</p>
3.	<p>Presentation – Lindsay Fulloon: Namoi Region Air Quality Monitoring Network - as at 14 June 2018.</p> <p>Lindsay demonstrated how data can be accessed on the website and what it looks like.</p> <p>General discussion: Relating to industry monitors being transitioned to the OEH network.</p> <p>Kirsten Gollongly noted that the industry monitors are compliance monitors and that any changes to their ownership, operation or location would will first require modifications of the mines project approvals, licences and management plans.</p> <p>Matt Riley spoke about the ease with which the Narrabri monitoring station was established due to pre-existing infrastructure and how it will be able to provide good information about what most people in town are exposed to. Local variation comes from distance to town and exposure to more specific activities. He said there is some consistency across monitoring stations.</p> <p>General discussion: Relating to the science behind the location of monitors and whether Boggabri will get a monitoring station. Matt Riley replied saying that the EPA and OEH can't monitor everywhere, but OEH/EPA and NRAQAC could look at data patterns across the network to help refine monitor locations. What is needed is the flexibility to move monitors based on data. Cath Collyer commented that small communities are important and that it is not all about the science. Matt Riley stated that the locations of the monitors in Gunnedah and Narrabri were based primarily on population size and that the NRAQAC can discuss where the best value might be found in terms of new locations.</p>	<p>The committee will examine the location of monitoring effort and seek to add value to the existing network as it progresses.</p>
4.	<p>Presentation – Matt Riley: Operational Costs and Network Establishment.</p> <p>Matt Riley provided an overview of costs associated with establishing and operating costs for the Namoi region and indicated the amount being sought from industry as industry contributions to the network.</p>	

General Discussion: Comment: Kirsten Gollogly. The mining industry have agreed to an equitable share of the monitoring network costs but that amount hasn't been determined yet. The mining industry has been waiting for the formation of this advisory committee. The funding model for networks operating in other regions includes representation from multiple industries. Mining is not the only industry in this region, and not all of the local mining companies are currently represented on this committee.

Lindsay Fulloon said that the Upper Hunter model is a levy process but that the EPA hopes to achieve a voluntary agreement with the Namoi mines instead. The EPA can only seek contributions from the industries it regulates in the region. Other industries (like Agriculture) are not regulated by EPA, and comprise many, many different practices and stakeholders. OEHL has therefore proposed cost sharing arrangements between the NSW Government and the mining industry, whereby OEHL pays for the establishment of the Gunnedah monitor with the exception of one piece of equipment (as it will also be the base station for the DustWatch network) and the ongoing operation of the Tamworth monitor. Industry was asked to fund the Narrabri monitor's establishment, one piece of monitoring equipment for the Gunnedah station, and the ongoing operation of the Gunnedah/Narrabri stations and the integration/operation of the other 4 industry monitors.

Lindsay explained that industry had however suggested that they were being asking it to fund more than the proportion of its contribution to particulate matter emissions throughout the region. The EPA hopes savings can be made as existing industry monitors join the network.

Comment: Kirsten Gollogly. Kirsten observed that industry operate a number of monitors in addition to the four monitors which EPA have been publishing the data from. The mining industry is required to continue to operate our other monitors, so we are uncertain that significant costs savings will result for us.

Comment: Peter Forbes said that he is keen to see data for what contributions industry has made already and that he does not want to see industry left to foot the bill.

Comment: Cath Collyer. Cath said she is keen to see more royalties returned to the regions from Government for this type of work. She spoke about Government using a portion of royalties to support local communities and requested the EPA progress this.

Adam Gilligan to continue discussions with industry and NSW Minerals Council. No discussions with Santos as of yet.

Lindsay Fulloon to arrange for Gunnedah and Narrabri monitoring data to be presented at the next meeting.

	<p>Comment: Craig Dalton. Craig spoke about industry valuing the data produced by the monitoring stations.</p> <p>Comment: Adam Gilligan. Adam stated that the network is good value for money irrespective of who pays at approximately \$300,000 p.a. in operating costs.</p> <p>Comment: Kirsten Gollogly. In relation to the possible addition of a Boggabri monitor to the network, Kirsten stated that the joint Boggabri Tarrawonga Maules (BTM) Environmental Trust funds environmental programs which will benefit the town of Boggabri and suggested that this may be an option available for consideration if additional monitoring equipment is required in Boggabri.</p> <p>Matt Riley said that the costs depicted are mostly labour costs and an extra monitor (eg Boggabri) will not impact costs greatly. He said that there is a variety of ways to add a monitor to the network and that Government meets the costs of the Tamworth monitor to enable an overall regional perspective. General discussion.</p>	
5.	<p>General discussion: Santos. Not on committee unless their proposed development is approved.</p> <p>Lindsay Fulloon suggested a visit to a monitoring station and a mine for a future meeting.</p>	<p>EPA to invite Santos to present on expected impacts if approved.</p> <p>Supported by Committee and to be considered on future agenda</p>
6.	<p>Next meeting. TBA.</p>	<p>Colleen Fuller to check room availability with Gunnedah Shire Council.</p>

The presentations can be found here, towards the bottom of the page: [Namoi Committee page](#)

Close: 4:55pm

Next meeting: Thursday, 6 September. 2pm.

Location: Gunnedah Shire Council Training Centre Room. 63 Elgin St, Gunnedah.