

**Environment Protection Authority  
Lake Macquarie Lead Community Reference Group**

**Minutes**

**18 June 2015, 5:00pm – 6:55pm**

**Chair:** Greg Piper

**Community Reference Group Attendees:**

Adam Gilligan (EPA), Dr Craig Dalton (NSW Health), Anne Sullivan (Community), Nicole Gerrard (Community), Emma Hale (Community), Karen McCraw (School), Lloyd Hill (Business), Cr Wendy Harrison (LMCC), Richard Bastow (Ferrier Hodgson – until 6.10pm)

**Secretary:** Jackie Teal (EPA)

**Other Attendees:**

Matthew James (EPA), Chris Harle (LMCC), Daniel Dohle (Golder Associates – until 5.45pm); Susan Thomas (NSW Health)

**Apologies:** Tony Cade (Community), Sandie Pitter (LMCC)

**Absent:** Cr Rob Denton

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**Agenda Item 1 – Welcome**

Chair, Greg Piper (GP) welcomed all to the meeting and acknowledged Chris Harle as being Sandie Pitter's representative.

**Agenda Item 2 – Apologies**

Tony Cade (Community), Sandie Pitter (LMCC)

**Agenda Item 3 – Minutes from Previous Meeting**

The Minutes from the previous meeting were adopted unanimously.

Moved: Karen McCraw

Seconded: Wendy Harrison

#### Agenda Item 4 – Actions Arising from Previous Minutes

NO.	ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION	UPDATE
1 May	Copy of "Lead Exposure Management Actions" Presentation to CRG	EPA	Action 1 complete
2 May	Presentation on Containment Cell	Ferrier Hodgson	Action 2 complete
3 May	Fact Sheet on Containment Cell	Ferrier Hodgson	Action 3 complete
4 May	Copy of Blood Level Presentation to CRG Craig Dalton	Craig Dalton	Action 4 complete
5 May	Copy of VegSafe Grant to CRG	Dean Chapman	Action 5 complete

#### Agenda Item 5 – Pasmenco Containment Cell Presentation

Daniel Dohle (Golders Associates) made a presentation on the Pasmenco Containment Cell. A copy of the presentation and fact sheet were provided to the CRG.

Matthew James made a presentation on Pasmenco's Groundwater Management. Discussions followed regarding the ongoing monitoring of groundwater as well as EPL monitoring conditions. A copy of the presentation is attached.

#### Agenda Item 6 – Blood Lead Clinics

Craig Dalton (CD) introduced Susan Thomas who will be conducting the blood lead clinics. CD thanked the CRG for their feedback regarding the clinic operating times. The clinics will commence on 29 June and will run from 1pm to 7pm Monday to Friday, initially for 3 weeks.

Discussions followed regarding the distribution of the flyer for the clinic. It was agreed that the preferred method of distribution would be by letterbox drop with the flyer being enclosed in a Hunter New England Health envelope.

Karen McCraw (KMc) advised she would be happy to distribute the flyer to schools.

CD advised that a "Lead Screening" link will be accessible on the Hunter New England Health home page. When families book on-line a survey will need to be completed prior to attending the clinic. CD confirmed that the target age group was children less than 5 years of age, if elder siblings presented at the clinic and the parents wanted them tested they would not be turned away.

CD advised that media outlets were involved in the dissemination of the clinic details which would include local newspapers and electronic press advertisements.

Discussions followed regarding incentives to encourage families to attend the blood lead clinic. Members of the CRG agreed to approach businesses to donate vouchers as an incentive to for families to attend the clinic for blood lead level tests. It was agreed that the EPA provide a letter to the CRG to give to local businesses as a conduit to obtain their donation.

Anne Sullivan (AS) raised the question of veggie gardens and play areas in preschools. It was agreed that CD arrange for a Hunter New England Health representative to accompany AS to address preschools regarding this issue.

**ACTION 1: EPA TO PREPARE LETTER FOR CRG TO TAKE TO BUSINESSES**

**Agenda Item 7 – Survey**

KMc advised that she did not receive a great response from the survey regarding the need for older children to be tested for blood lead level. It was reiterated that all children that present at a clinic for testing will be tested.

**Agenda Item 8 – Community Engagement**

AG provided a background on the inclusion of this agenda item which stemmed from Sandie Pitter's interest with regard to how to engage the community.

Discussions continued with the best method to engage all aspects of the community.

It was agreed that the EPA prepare a feedback form that could be distributed to businesses including but not limited to; Chemists, IGA, U3A and the Library. The website will also be updated to include a "Feedback Form".

Issues were raised regarding soil testing. Matthew James advised that the EPA's project aim is to provide an alternative local waste disposal facility for any Pasminco lead and/or slag impacted materials now that the Pasminco containment cell has closed.

Lengthy discussions followed regarding s149 certificates and the adequacy of the LAS (Lead Abatement Strategy). It was noted that the LEWG is considering if the LAS was suitable.

The draft Preliminary Waste Classification – Suburbs Surrounding the Former Pasminco Smelter will be considered at the next LEWG meeting on 20 July. Comments on the draft need to be provided to Matthew James by 18 July 2015.

It was agreed that after the findings of the blood lead level tests that the CRG hold a public meeting in association with the LEWG to introduce members to the community.

The Speers Point Living Smart Festival was agreed to be a conduit for the CRG and the community. Chris Harle is involved with the organising committee and agreed to liaise with the CRG.

**ACTION 2: EPA TO INCLUDE FEEDBACK FORM ON WEBSITE**

**ACTION 3: EPA TO DRAFT FEEDBACK FORM FOR DISTRIBUTION BY THE CRG**

**ACTION 4: EPA TO CIRCULATE WASTE CLASSIFICATION REPORTS TO CRG**

## **Agenda Item 9 – VegeSafe Program / Raised Garden Beds**

VegeSafe -documentation was circulated to the CRG. Matthew James thanked the CRG for a good response.

It was agreed that the VegeSafe Program was not a priority at this point of time and should be discussed in the future.

It was suggested that a raised garden bed display could also be included in the Speers Point Living Smart Festival.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

AG advised that a few complaints had been received by the EPA regarding odour in the North Lake Macquarie area. This odour was due to pasteurised mulch odour which would dissipate in due course.

AG thanked all for their contribution to the progress of the CRG.

The next meeting of the LEWG is on 20 July and will be hosting 2 presenters:

Brian Gulson – who will provide comments on the NHMRC guidance about blood lead levels; and Tony Morrison from Macquarie University regarding his latest slag research.

Matthew James will extend an invitation to the CRG.

## **Agenda Item 9 – Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items**

Next Meeting: 13 August 2015

Meeting Closed: 6.55pm

## ACTION ITEMS

NO.	WHO	WHAT	WHEN
1	EPA	Prepare letter for CRG to take to businesses re incentives	ASAP
2	EPA	Include Feedback Form on Website	ASAP
3	EPA	Prepare Feedback Form for Distribution by CRG	By next meeting
4	EPA	Circulate Waste Classification Reports to CRG	ASAP



- **Site-wide Groundwater Monitoring Management Plan**
  - **EPA Site Auditor reviewed**
  - **June and December reporting**
  - **Ongoing monitoring (quarterly)**
- **EPA and NSW Office of Water – Implementation of a groundwater exclusion zone over the former Pasminco site**











