



**Assessment, Evaluation, Review and Updating of the Current Air Quality Management Plan for eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality**

**Summary of public meetings held to present the baseline assessment of air quality**



# **Assessment, Evaluation, Review and Updating of the Current Air Quality Management Plan for eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality**

## **1. Introduction**

An AQMP is a strategic document that will assist the eThekweni Municipality to achieve air quality management goals in a structured, coordinated and measured manner. The Pollution Control and Risk Management (PCRM) section of eThekweni Municipality's Health Unit developed and implemented an Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) in 2007. eThekweni Health Unit's is embarking on a project to assess, evaluate, review, and update the AQMP in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (NEM:AQA) (Act No. 39 of 2004). uMoya-NILU Consulting (Pty) Ltd was appointed to assist eThekweni Municipality and to lead the revision of the AQMP. The AQMP review is an 18 month project and is planned to conclude in November 2015. Active involvement of all stakeholders aims to ensure that all issues are identified and that interventions are appropriate and the implementation is successful. In the development and implementation of an AQMP, the range of stakeholders includes, National and Provincial Government, industry, agriculture, planning and development, communities, NGOs, and academic institutions and residents, amongst others. Public meetings were held in eThekweni Municipality's South, West and North sub-districts to present and discuss the draft status quo assessment. Air quality management gaps, issues and concerns were discussed and a summary of this dialogue for each of the three regions is presented in this document.



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## Assessment, Evaluation, Review and Updating of the Current Air Quality Management Plan for eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality

Venue: Tongaat Town Hall

Date: 19.05.2015

Notes compiled by Farryn Moodley and Sarisha Perumal.

Attendees: See Appendix for attendance register

Stakeholder	Comment	Response
<b>Jeeva Pillay (Tongaat Civic Association)</b>	Are motor vehicle emission estimates based on number of cars?	The emission estimates are based on number of cars and fuel sold, so it is an accurate estimate
	Are biogenic emissions considered, what about animals as well?	These emissions are considered in the report
	I am glad to see that eThekweni has considered community concerns, glad that air quality issues are being taken seriously. The easiest issue to control at this moment seems to be large traffic volumes, which should be reduced.	eThekweni does have an integrated traffic plan but there needs to be an air quality output
<b>Perumal (WESSA)</b>	The municipality needs to come together to address the public transport issue and reduce vehicular traffic. There is heavy traffic in Verulam, heavy concentrations in particular areas. Ndwedwe needs to be considered in monitoring. Heavy industrial basin in Verulam is not being considered. City does not seem to be listening to the community out there. Are you	Integration is needed between city departments to make this happen



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Stakeholder	Comment	Response
	operating with political will to deliver on documents? Don't work in silos.	
<b>eThekwini Transport Representative</b>	What projects have Health embarked on in collaboration with eThekwini Transport Authority (ETA)?	Many opportunities and co benefits. One way roads could have certain potential benefits. Lots of opportunities for future projects.
<b>A. Perumal (wessa)</b>	What about the park and ride? The municipality used to have a bus transport system for the people from the north to the city centre which decreases vehicle numbers on the road. They need to provide an efficient bus transport system for them.	There are lots of issues beyond the PCRM mandate and there are mechanisms in place but the AQMP is not one of them. The city is rolling out the RBT system, proposing feeding large depots using smaller taxis. Transport Dept facing a lot of pressure. MZ and team have shown that vehicle emissions are significant. We need to improve air quality and quality of life. All stakeholders collectively need to exert significant pressure on national counterparts and industry to meet requirements.
<b>Jeeva Pillay (Tonga Civic)</b>	Fuel type is the other issue. Quality is inferior and results in more pollution. Sapref arguing about costs. There is a political issue, need to insist on higher standard of fuel quality. Local municipality needs to put pressure on SAPREF.	Consider Clean fuels 1: low sulphur diesel, very costly. Clean fuels 2 by 2017: SO <sub>2</sub> 10ppm, even lower, in line with most EU countries but we need funding. Also consider fuel volume and economies of scale.
<b>Christopher Jones ACSA</b>	Have aircrafts flying over the city been accounted for?	No, the assumption is that airborne aircraft emissions are not felt at ground level
<b>A.Perumal (WESSA)</b>	Are you measuring cyanide in the Canelands and Verulam area?	Not currently



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Stakeholder	Comment	Response
	Health study was initiated in Tongaat, we need to go back and look at this. School children affected etc. ...cane burning. We need to protect industry as well. We talk about water conservation, water scarcity in the north. Need to encourage grey water. Is there a permit system to harness grey water in South Africa?	Noted, will be taken forward appropriately. Very useful, we need to consider cyanide in Verulam. We also do campaign monitoring.
	Not much education but what is the plan going forward to create a structure to create more opportunities for air quality skills development.	Some postgraduate degrees are available
	Is there a bylaw preventing the burning of biomass in backyard?	Yes.
<b>Jeeva Pillay (Tongaat Civic)</b>	Cane burning complaints directed to the 24 hour hotline that's why there are no complaints in the eThekweni Register. Need to understand that the mill in Tongaat is an employment generator. Bought back 19 000 hectares for cane farming.	Treated differently across the EM: not permitted in the greater Durban area.
	Ganga water taken from the mill taken from the mill has a serious odour but it has been dealt with	Noted.
<b>BTech honours in Occupational health and safety student</b>	There are air pollution modules at DUT, there is scope.	Noted.
<b>A.Perumal</b>	25 000 trees planted from Chatsworth to Marianhill, how does	MZ: Carbon sequestration benefits



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Stakeholder	Comment	Response
	the disappearance of trees affect ambient air quality in the area.	

Venue: Old Durban International Airport

Date: 20.05.2015

Notes compiled by Farryn Moodley.

Attendees: See Appendix for attendance register

	Question/comment	Response
<b>Desmond D'Sa (DD)</b>	Can we have the presentation and the minutes	Yes, they will be available to you
<b>DD</b>	Why did the city discontinue the MPP? Why were there no meetings after it was discontinued?	The MPP was a particular project, that had a timeframe and was funded. There have been other parallel projects which have been funded eg. Norwegian funding
	Why was it just a project	Air quality is generally good in eThekweni. It is not a priority area.
<b>DD</b>	Why were the recommendations in the health study not carried out, when the city said that they would?	Big output from the review was the focus on asthmas cases. Initial focus of the city was to drive pollutants down, which the presentation shows that we have done. Need to redo the study,



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		but how? Topography will have to change.
<b>DD</b>	We have been asking for data from the city since 2010. Why has the city not released the information?	We have a meeting with a representative from the SAWS, to upload the data onto the SAAQIS website, to make the data available.
<b>DD</b>	Tell me about the gaps? We have data that shows when the monitoring stations were not operating, when it was not calibrated. Is the data credible?	We do have challenges with the stations. We are currently refurbishing the stations, replacing the AC's and equipment.
<b>DD</b>	The demolition of Clairwood racecourse, why is the city silent? Also at Ganges? Is the data credible?	
<b>DD</b>	When Benton, Bheki and Siva worked at the municipality, the stations were maintained. The qualified people have left.	
<b>DD</b>	The SAPREF incident was left out of the presentations. There is no updated information in the presentation. Why are there no incidents mentioned, and the impacts they have on the people?	With regards to this study, we did not look at upsets; we looked at averages and distributions. Incidents results in spikes, which are difficult to monitor and model. They are dealt with by regulatory systems.
	There is no representation from the refineries	Engen is here.
<b>DD</b>	There needs to be new information, this is not accurate.	We have to use information from the past to move forward
<b>DD</b>	Who verified the data. The figures have been watered down.	



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	If you phone the 24-hr municipal line, there is no answer, and you do not get a reference number. There are two numbers to, Peter Roberts during working hours. After working hours, we do not get a response. Can we get the cell phone numbers to contact Bruce and Peter?	The issue has been raised
<b>Bongani</b>	These issues affect us directly, the presentation was done in "by the way" fashion.	
<b>Bongani</b>	It is not good if the officials do not work with us. Bruce's slide speaks about engagement with stakeholders, but there is no engagement.	
	The city is refusing to give us the data, but they must realise that it is our data!	
<b>Bongani</b>	Mark, it looks like you've worked with Bruce. You have painted a picture that most of the pollution comes from vehicles, not the industries. The data has gaps, and we need the information.	
<b>Bongani</b>	With regards to the number of complaints, 2 a day is impossible. People who receive the complaints are not doing a good job. We do have good guys that work in the city, but there is no engagement.	We need a systematic approach to capturing the complaints. There are 3 systems used to capture complaints, which is not ideal. Have a complaints clerk. The community goes about complaining to different people.
<b>Bongani</b>	Can we just have one number to call with complaints?	City needs to put in plan for the call line
<b>Bongani</b>	I'm not satisfied with the response.	



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<b>Bongani</b>	We need the SAPREF incident report, can we have it? Was there an incident report from SAPREF and is it available to us?	There has been a report handed in, but they need to do a root cause analysis report also, which is outstanding. The Department of Labour only left on the 27 April 2015, and only after that could SAPREF allow their people in, so hopefully we get the report by the end of the week. Africa Sun Oil has the national and provincial authorities wanting answers also. We are still waiting for their report, pressing for information.
<b>Bongani</b>	Unfair to compare power stations to monitoring stations	It was just an analogy, will try and use another for the Pinetown meeting
<b>Bongani</b>	Inter-relationships with stakeholders are pathetic	
<b>DD</b>	The data is concerning. There are serious gaps. The monitoring stations are not working.	Around the data, we tried to make the best use of the data available.
<b>DD</b>	What has been done to employ people with skills to monitor the data.	We realise the loss of capacity.
	Why are the stations that were used in the MPP offline? Been told that you're waiting for parts. Also the AC's do not work.	
	In the summary, you say that air quality is good. It may be good in the north (Umhlanga), but it is not good in the south.	
	Residual Fuel Burning, have data to 2011. We need current data. How do we assess the increase or decrease in pollution?	



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<b>DD</b>	City has admitted that the equipment needs to be updated. I am happy about that.	
	How is eThekwini not a priority area?	According to the national framework eThekwini is not regarded as a priority area.
<b>Billy Prinsloo</b>	Thank you for the Presentation. The gaps that I will like to comment on is the complaining mechanisms, we don't know who to complain to. Need to be customer friendly personnel.	
<b>Billy Prinsloo</b>	Enforcement needs to be pushed	Legal action is being taken. There has been a facility that we suspended for 2 months.
<b>Billy Prinsloo</b>	Skills Training: There is a lot of money going towards interns, but environmental health doesn't seem to have the focus of the budget, need to put forward requests. Learnerships are a good idea.	
<b>Billy Prinsloo</b>	With regards to the health plan, should get records from the local clinics for monitoring purposes.	
<b>Billy Prinsloo</b>	The cleaner fuel process implemented by the national government, are we talking to the right relevant authorities about old cars, taxi's and buses. We should use Singapore as an example (don't use cars older than 10 years).	
<b>Billy Prinsloo</b>	Transport route from Bayhead to ... has been shelved due to pollution. We need to look at the transport	



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	routes.	
	Mobeni Crematorium- Pollutants reaching residents in Woodhaven, Mobeni Heights. Smoke pollution. Complaints have not received any response. We need a solution please. We were promised a new burner, but the old burner still has to remain functioning as well. Need to do something about the old burner.	
<b>DD</b>	The issue around the assessment study called for a full assessment. For accurate data need a full study of chemicals. Constant benzene smell.	
<b>DD</b>	Does not speak of the percentage of sick children at Settlers school. It's 52%.	
<b>DD</b>	Full chemical assessment of the corridor. Need the health study also.	
<b>Bongani</b>	Odours impact on our health and well-being.	The ambient air quality standards look at pollutants in isolation, not at the collective impacts.
	The doctors and clinics are a good starting point for information for the health study	
	The information on demolitions in Clairwood can be sourced from eThekweni Transport.	



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	Bruce Dale said that eThekweni is not a priority area, but still need enforcement. In 2004 capacity was not an issue. Corporates are not obeying the law	
	Do sugarcane farmers require an AEL?	Sugarcane burning regarded as a nuisance activity does not require an AEL. They do not need a licence to burn but do need permission. Trying to phase out burning, but it is a long term plan.
	The city clinic information may be misleading as people don't only go to these clinics	
	Data on the health of children. There is no identification on the specific causes of the health issue. There should be a study on impacts on children coming to school from an outside area and those that are from the area.	
	Need a 24-hr clinic in Merebank	
<b>Anand Maharaj</b>	Request a study on the dust caused by the demolition at Clairwood. There are large amounts of dust, have to keep our doors and windows closed.	Peter Roberts interacting and commenting on the dust problem in Clairwood. There are laws in place for dust complaints, even if an EIA is in process. Peter taking down details/complaints.
	Addressing Mark's slide, temperature inversion does affect us	
	When will the AQMP be implemented?	Air Quality act has various sections. The AQMP has been implemented. This is a review of that AQMP. AEL's have been implemented. Enforcement has been implemented.



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		The AQMP has to be passed by council once completed, and then included in the IDP. It is the steering document for the future. Air Quality management still goes on, and will change with your input
<b>Bongani</b>	To the city: How do they look at Sappi Saiccor? I received a call from a Mr Naiker, who has complained about the pollution. How do they monitor Sappi Saiccor?	Sappi Saiccor is the biggest issue. There is no immediate solution, and the solution is likely to be expensive
	Businesses, in the South Durban Basin, are opening before receiving their licence. When crisis occurs, it's too late. When the city wants to take on the company, it goes to the supreme court, and we don't get any information. Need to nip it in the bud.	
<b>Bogani</b>	City needs to consider the development of Aqua adjacent to Sappi Saiccor. This is a big problem.	



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Venue: Pinetown Civic Centre

Date: 26.05.2015

Notes compiled by Farryn Moodley and Sarisha Perumal.

Attendees: See Appendix for attendance register

<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
<b>Bobby Peek (BP)</b>	What is the thermal treatment of waste?	Pet crematorium and human waste but no waste incinerators
	It is glaringly important that trucking is missing, it is incumbent on you to include it so that we can motivate for a rail option	Noted
<b>Rico Euripidou (RE)</b>	Can you tell us the contribution of trucks to emissions?	Yes but not at a street level
	The tolerance standard is a political move to make polluted air, healthy air	Noted that this is an important point to consider. The 10 min standard is health based and based on international standards but industry lobbying did result in an increase of the tolerance standards.
<b>BP</b>	Why is PM.25 not included	Just left out of the presentation but it is in the report
<b>RE</b>	Has industries' monitoring data been included in the report	Yes, data from SAPPI



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	Are there other entities that monitor and is there information included in the report?	Yes but due to time and legal constraints they have not been included in the report. Municipality in negotiations to bring the port into the network It was a case of using available data
<b>BP</b>	Why did you use Sappi	Time constraints, there data was readily available
	Do the oil refineries monitor ambient data?	Valid points need to find a way to augment the report with other industries `data
	Important to understand the impact on fenceline communities	
	Needs to be pushed through the municipalities schedule trade permit	
	Is there a stamp of confidentiality as with the Assmang report	Legal has told us that it is subjudicae
<b>RB</b>	There is information available that stakeholders believe should be in the public domain and should augment the baseline assessment	
<b>RE</b>	Is there an analysis of the time period that the monitoring station has been offline?	No, but easy to add to the report
	Did you split the data by season to look at the effects of winter inversions?	No, but easy to do, split into smaller time periods in the report
<b>BP</b>	When is Bruce going to shut down Sappi	



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RE

Health study showed prevalence of asthma in the SDB even at low levels of air pollution. Health standards represent where we are currently as a nation but do not protect sensitive communities like those in the sdb who have been historically impacted and especially vulnerable. Call for a health study to reassess these standards in areas such as the SDB (see notes) It is important that the baseline assessment reflects concentrations are currently in compliance with standards but experiences of air pollution vary and therefore we call for an update of the health data alongside the pollution data. Especially a visitation of an understanding of what the prevalence of asthma is? 2006 was the benchmark in terms of health and there has been a wholesale improvement of air quality since then but how has the asthma prevalence rate changed since then? Is it the same has it decreased or increased and what the underlying assumptions are. It is a study that could easily be done by Prof Rajen Naidoo at UKZN What is needed is an effective measure of the efficacy of interventions. \*cost of air pollution\*

Point acknowledged, also called for on Wednesday



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	Are they thinking of setting up a monitoring station in the Bellaire area?30 00 trucks, diesel fumes etc. future monitoring	Noted
<b>BP</b>	Where is Leeds crescent (benzene exceedance) nasty industries	
<b>RE</b>	Are there carbon black monitors at any of these?	No, DEA looking at it for the future
<b>Johan Van Zyl</b>	Afrisam monitor packed up	
<b>BP</b>	Complaints system up the pole	
<b>BP</b>	Do you speak in the report that the department was gutted a few years ago	Yes, it is mentioned
	Systems were operational but they were gutted	
	Can you indicate what was budgeted for and what was spent over the last 10 years?	BD: Information is available in city records, MPP and current spend is available
	Get it from city records	
	Sitting a decade later worse off than we were before	



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<b>RE</b>	Global trend that would add value: understand what the cost of air pollution in Durban is? What is the health cost, what is the cost to society? There are tools to do that an even though we're not mandated to do it we should be moving in that direction. A recommendation like that should be coming out of this baseline assessment. In another developmental paradigm we would have a zero tolerance of benzene, what does this tell us?	
<b>BP</b>	<p>Slow poison report gives an analysis of the city collapsing</p> <hr/> <p>be clear: not developed in a way where stakeholders can sit around the table and make decisions</p> <hr/> <p>but these are politically motivated and mandated decisions</p> <hr/> <p>we would rather have an open rather than a closed room</p> <hr/> <p>request for a summary of the process</p>	<p>We will develop the plan with input by stakeholders</p> <hr/> <p>We'll get input from all stakeholders to get gaps and issues. Use that to inform the plan</p>
<b>RE</b>	<p>Lots of experience with AQMPs, especially the Highveld AQMP: big emphasis</p> <hr/> <p>Drafting and implementation has not resulted in reductions of air pollution.</p>	



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	Does not come into compliance	
	Demonstrates a broader message	
	bobby's point refers	
	Unless SDB people are involved in determining the thing that is desired to give them the thing that they seek, clean air and access to health there will always be a disconnect.	easier to manage and allocate accountability in a municipality
	Missing point, over the decade we need to see what budget the city has spent	Budgets have been presented on previous presentations
BP	Reality will show that the city has cut down on air pollution budgeting	
	read the context	
	media highlights that the city gutted the department during these years we never spent money on air quality	Report was very pinioned
<b>Bruce</b>		
BP	No response from the city	
<b>City health</b>	Will be able to provide those, we did more air quality stations than planned	



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There was a station every year for 5 years

**RB**

This needs to be part of the comprehensive report.



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