

## MINUTES

### Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

#### Joint Working Group Emissions and Health Meeting

UHMD Resource Centre, Upstairs of the Town Square Shopping Centre  
Suite 1, 159 John Street, Singleton NSW 2330

Wednesday 28 March 2018: 2.00 pm to 4.00pm

---

#### In attendance:

John Watson (Chair)	Glencore
Chris Knight	The Bloomfield Group
Julie Thomas	Muswellbrook Coal
John Campbell	Bengalla Mining Company
Neville Hodgkinson	Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group
Wendy Bowman	NSW Mine Watch
Matthew Parkinson	AGL
Sarah Roberts	Singleton Council
Bob Mackie	theresource
James Barben	NSW Minerals Council

#### Guest

Mitchell Bennett	NSW Environment Protection Agency
------------------	-----------------------------------

#### Apology

Karen Marler	NSW Environment Protection Authority
Simon Francis	NSW Department of Primary Industries - Water
Peter Jaeger	Peabody Energy
Sarah Withell	BHP
Mary-Anne Crawford	Singleton Council
Mark Scandrett	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Craig Milton	NSW Minerals Council

---

#### 1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed attendees and noted apologies.

#### 2. Minutes and actions of the previous meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted. Mr. Barben provided a brief update on outstanding action items, noting that several are addressed in these papers, or are in progress.

#### 3. Presentation: Mitch Bennett, NSW EPA, Dust Risk Forecasting Scheme

Mr. Bennett from the NSW EPA gave an update on the Dust Risk Forecasting Scheme that the EPA has been working on. The presentation was well received, and Mr. Bennett sought feedback on the direction

for the program after outlining the challenges that were experienced in conducting the modelling. The following key points were discussed during the briefing:

- Air quality in the region is generally good with 80-90% of days in Singleton and Muswellbrook being good to very good. This makes it a difficult process to identify the small percentage of days that may be a high risk for dust generation.
- The model is set up to identify a 25 microgram increase in PM10 from Merriwa to Singleton.
- OEH trialled two models over three months.
- The models use weather forecasts as an input which proved problematic in accurate forecasting.
- During the trial period both models accurately predicted a high-risk day once from the four occurrences
- Reasons for the missed predictions included inaccurate weather forecasts, lower than expected production and modelling issues

Mr. Watson advised that the forecasts may complement site specific forecasting information and may be of use to industry in preparing for high risk days.

#### **4. 2017 UHMD Annual Forum Review**

Mr. Barben provided an overview of the outcomes from the 2017 Annual Forum noting the challenge for the UHMD in seeking further community representatives. Generally, the forum was well received, and participants appreciated the updates on the projects.

#### **5. 2018 Strategic Discussion**

Mr. Barben provided an update on the outcomes of the JASC and ISC as noted in the papers. Discussion was then had amongst the JWG members regarding their priorities for the UHMD.

Dr. Hodgkinson advised that he'd like to see the JWG focus on heritage in the Broke / Milbrodale area as a health issue as it relates to a person's sense of place. This included Aboriginal, colonial, and mining heritage with opportunities for this to be incorporated into rehabilitation and tourism potential. Dr. Hodgkinson requested that this be raised with the JASC for discussion.

#### **ACTION**

- **Discuss the potential to add heritage as a health issue to the JWG's remit with the JASC**

#### **6. Upper Hunter Air Quality Education Fact Sheets**

The Fact Sheets were taken as read and feedback was requested by from the JWG by 16 April 2018.

#### **ACTION**

- **Provide any final feedback on the Fact Sheets to the UHMD Secretariat by 16 April 2018**

#### **7. Clearing the Air Video Update**

The final video was played for the Committee. The UHMD Secretariat is working to upload this to the website.

#### **8. Update on NSW Government Air Quality Initiatives**

Mr. Barben and Mr. Watson provided an update on the current NSW Government air quality initiatives including the Clean Air for NSW Plan, North West Air Quality Monitoring Network, Non-Road diesel, load based licensing and Chief Scientist's review of coal train dust. It was noted that many of the initiatives were being worked on by the EPA including conducting regulatory impact assessments and further policy development.

## 9. Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network Update

Mr. Watson provided an update on the regional Air Quality from the latest EPA quarterly monitoring report noting that the delay in releasing the data was due to diligent OEHL data checking processes. Mr. Watson also discussed the monitoring technologies, review of the network locations and some of the anomalous results that were observed.

## 10. Update on communication activities

Mr. Mackie provided an overview of the various communications activities including providing a summary the key findings from the UHMD Community Surveys, with members interested in these findings and how they may be used to improve our engagement.

Mr. Mackie also provided a brief update on the upcoming Coal Festival events that he is coordinating for the local Business Chambers.

## 11. Update on current Dialogue projects

A brief update on current projects was provided by Mr. Barben although much of the content was covered in the prior papers.

## 12. Other Business

Nil

## 13. Next Meeting / Meeting Close

The next meeting dates for 2018 were provided to the working group for reference.

**Meeting closed at 3:35 pm**

---

### Actions arising from meeting on UHMD Joint Working Group - Emissions & Health Meeting

Action	Responsibility	Status
<b>Strategic Discussion - Heritage proposal</b>		
Discuss the potential to add heritage as a health issue to the JWG's remit with the JASC	<b>UHMD Secretariat</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<b>Upper Hunter Air Quality Fact Sheets</b>		
Provide any final feedback on the Fact Sheets to the UHMD Secretariat by 16 April 2018	<b>JWG members</b>	<b>Completed</b>