

## 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 11 October: 2.00 pm to 2.30pm

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#### In attendance

John Watson (Chair)	Glencore
Julie Thomas	Muswellbrook Coal
Melinda Hale	Singleton Council
Dominic Brown	Yancoal
Neville Hodgkinson	Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group
Bob Mackie	the resource
James Barben	NSW Minerals Council
Craig Milton	NSW Minerals Council

#### Apology

Karen Marler	NSW Environment Protection Authority
Sarah Withell	BHP

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#### 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. Milton provided an overview of the outstanding action, with the draft air quality fact sheet included on the agenda for consideration and feedback from members.

#### 3. School Mine Tours Program

Mr. Mackie provided an update on the program, noting that tours will be conducted in the coming weeks for the current Year 9 students at Singleton High School to ensure they are captured in the program. Tour guide training will also be taking place. Members asked about the length of tours (they will be 2 to 2.5 hours), and the costs per tour (which are varied depending on the company providing the quote).

#### **4. EPA Dust Risk Forecasting Trial**

Mr. Milton provided an update on the limited information available. Members noted it would be good to get an update from an EPA or OEH representative for the next meeting on the various items of work these departments are progressing.

#### **ACTION:**

- **UHMD Secretariat to invite OEH/EPA personnel to present at the next JWG - Emissions & Health meeting.**

#### **5. Upper Hunter Air Quality Education Fact Sheet**

Members discussed the draft fact sheet provided for comment. Members advised the UHMD secretariat that we need to be careful about how this information is laid out. There is quite a bit of detailed information in the current draft. These important points need to be drawn out. Members suggested including a background on what particulate matter is, and why it is important. The infographic with the hair and particulates was suggested as being an easy to understand image.

The fact sheet should also try and link to other fact-based information to ensure the fact sheet remains as impartial as possible.

The Chair suggested that the fact sheet could involve a multi stage project, in that the first sheet could outline what the air quality is like (i.e. a 'state of the nation' type sheet), with a subsequent one outlining what industry is doing to address it, (i.e. Now vs. Future)

Ms. Hale advised that the EPA wood smoke Mythbuster promotional material was very effective, and the UHMD secretariat could look to some of these resources for inspiration.

#### **ACTION:**

- **UHMD Secretariat to redraft fact sheet and present to working group at next meeting.**

#### **6. Update on Government Air Quality Initiatives**

Mr. Barben provided a brief update on the range of government initiatives associated with Clean Air for NSW. The Chair noted that some of the questions that certain advocacy groups included in the summit asked did not exactly correlate to what was being presented.

#### **7. Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network Update**

Mr. Milton provided a brief update on the UHAQMN noting that the five yearly review findings are yet to be announced, and the Chair advised that a meeting for the Network advisory committee will be coming in a few weeks, which may provide further information.

#### **8. 2017 UHMD Annual Forum**

Mr. Barben provided an update on the Forum, strongly encouraging members to attend.

#### **9. Update on communications initiatives**

Mr. Mackie provided an overview of the key communication initiatives being undertaken. Members were most interested in the 'What happens on a dusty day?' video, which is currently in post-production.

Members agreed that if this video is in a final state close to the Forum, it would be great to launch the video at this event.

## **10. Update on current UHMD projects**

Mr. Barben provided an update on the current projects not covered previously in the Agenda. The Chair felt that a number of projects were starting to wrap up, and there was a need to think about the future direction of the Working Group in terms of emerging trends. Members were encouraged to think about any potential projects the working group might explore in 2018.

The Chair was interested to see what will arise from discussions at the Forum and how this may guide the Working Group in 2018.

## **11. Other business**

Mr. Barben provided a brief update on the Synoptic Plan Review process.

The UHMD secretariat encouraged all members to review the JWG contact list and consider if there are any additional contacts to consider. Ms. Hale suggested contacting Muswellbrook Shire Council and encourage their continued involvement.

### **ACTION:**

- **UHMD secretariat to invite Muswellbrook Council to send a representative to future JWG meetings.**

## **12. Next Meeting / Meeting Close**

The draft meeting dates for 2018 were discussed. Members were encouraged to review these dates and advise of any foreseeable clashes.

Mr. Hodkinson provided a summary of a number of different projects he has recently been involved in, including work on a heritage project with the Bulga community, which highlights the colonial, convict, and indigenous history of the Bulga region. Mr. Hodkinson is looking for some professional assistance to develop this project further. Ms. Hale suggested contacting her to ensure that appropriate Singleton Council personnel were aware of the project.

Mr. Hodkinson encouraged the UHMD secretariat to review a number of submissions made to VPA's on exhibition to consider their approaches to environmental impacts. Ms. Hale agreed this may be a way to guide future projects for the working group.

**Meeting closed at 3:35 pm**

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

**Wednesday 11 October 2017**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>EPA Dust Risk Forecasting Trial</b>		
UHMD Secretariat to invite OEH/EPA personnel to present at the next JWG - Emissions & Health meeting.	<b>UHMD secretariat</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<b>Upper Hunter Air Quality Education Fact Sheet</b>		
UHMD Secretariat to redraft fact sheet and present to working group at next meeting. <b>Note: Included in Agenda item 6</b>	<b>UHMD secretariat</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<b>Other business</b>		
UHMD secretariat to invite Muswellbrook Council to send a representative to future JWG meetings.	<b>UHMD secretariat</b>	<b>Completed</b>

**FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION**