

MINUTES

NSW Minerals Council

UHMD – Emissions & Health Joint Working Group

UMHD Resource Centre, Singleton Town Square Shopping Centre, Singleton

Wednesday 5 August 2015: 1.30pm – 4.30pm

Present

Melinda Hale	Singleton Council
John Watson	Glencore
John Drinan	Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group
Wendy Bowman	NSW Mine Watch
Matthew Parkinson	Bayswater Power Station
Scott Brooks	Department of Planning and Environment
Neville Hodgkinson	Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group
Shane Davey	<i>theresource</i>
Bob Mackie	<i>theresource</i>
Gerard Gleeson	Rio Tinto
Greg Sullivan	NSW Minerals Council
Andrew Rode	NSW Minerals Council
Anthony Trimarchi	NSW Minerals Council

Apology

Julie Thomas	Muswellbrook Coal Company Limited
John Hindmarsh	The Bloomfield Group
Peter Forbes	Anglo American Metallurgical Coal

1. Welcome and Apologies

John Watson welcomed attendees to the Joint Working Group – Emissions and Health, and noted the apologies.

Greg Sullivan provided a brief overview of the new venue for the meeting, and the establishment of the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue resource centre.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of 8 May 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 May were confirmed.

3. Establishment of Joint Advisory Steering Committee

Greg advised that an Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Joint Advisory Steering Committee (JASC) has been established, comprising three community representatives, three representatives industry and two from local government. The purpose of the JASC is to promote, monitor progress, and provide guidance, advice and oversight on the operation of the UHMD.

Greg advised that the Chair of the JASC will be David O'Brien (Glencore), and that the other two industry representatives, as well as representatives from the community and local government are yet to be confirmed. It was recommended that the Joint Working Groups and its members provide ongoing advice relating to Dialogue issues to the JASC by contacting its Chair or one of its representatives.

4. Weather Forecast Reporting

The working group noted that since the last meeting there had been no PM10 50ug/m3 exceedance in the Singleton and Muswellbrook areas, although one did occur on 7 May 2015 (the day before the previous meeting). It was noted that all monitors across the Upper Hunter network exceed 50ug/m3, as did most monitors across NSW. According to the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) the high particulate levels were caused by a dust storm in the Victorian Mallee and South West of NSW.

Neville Hodkinson was interested to understand how the dust storm would impact on health. The working group suggested that this question be put to NSW Health (Craig Dalton).

Wendy Bowman said that blasting and PM10 was less of an issue and that PM2.5 and PM1 were now more important.

John Watson spoke of *DustWatch*, a program supported by the OEH that monitors and reports on the severity of wind erosion and dust across Australia. John advised that the *DustWatch* reports, released monthly, provide a good spotlight on seasonal performance, and that the next report is due to be released shortly.

Gerard Gleeson noted that there was an interesting phenomenon in that there were amber alerts for that day, nevertheless the conditions were good. He was interested to understand why and questioned the validity of the forecasting.

ACTION:

- NSWMC to request that NSW Health comment on the health implications of the 7 May dust-storm event.

5. Engagement of the resource and updating of UHMD communications plan

Greg advised that the UHMD Communications Plan is being reviewed and updated with a view to

better promoting the work and presence of the UHMD. Mr Shane Davey and Mr Bob Mackie from *theresource* has been engaged by the NSWMC to prepare and undertake many of the actions identified in the Plan; and noted that the venue for the meeting, the UMHD Resource Centre, has been provided by *theresource*.

Shane provided an update on work undertaken to-date, including building stronger relationships with local print-media and radio stakeholders, so as to build 'a more visible face' for the UHMD in the local area. It was agreed that Shane and Bob will report back to the UHMD on progress made on a monthly basis.

The working group discussed the merits of, and expressed support for, the initiative, and suggested a range of potential ideas for how to promote and educate the community on the UHMD's activities. This included engaging with schools, using fridge magnets, and print media. John Drinan suggested that the communication plan should seek to have an educative focus, so as to educate the community on mining-related issues as well as promote the UHMD. The working group agreed with this suggestion.

The working group noted the importance of keeping Shane and Bob informed of UHMD-related developments, and acknowledged that input/feedback from the various JWG's would be of great assistance to the development of communications initiatives. John Drinan suggested that each JWG should include a standing item at the end of each meeting to consider and provide input/feedback to *theresource*. The working group agreed with this approach, and considered whether a communique could be drafted following each meeting.

ACTION:

- NSWMC to include a standing agenda item at the end of each meeting to consider and provide input/feedback to *theresource* to form a communique.

6. Lower Hunter Dust Deposition Study - Interim Results

The working group discussed the interim results released by the NSW EPA from the first six months of sampling from the Lower Hunter Dust Deposition Study; commissioned in response to community concerns about the levels of visible black dust in the region.

The working group noted that the dust deposition averages collected in the study were well below the EPAs acceptable level of 4g/sqm/month, and that the overwhelming majority of material collected was found to be soil and rock dust, with a relatively small proportion being coal.

Neville said that there was no definitive conclusion on dust deposition for the Upper Hunter region.

The working group also discussed the effects of diesel dust deposition.

Andrew advised that Adam Gilligan was scheduled to present the interim results of the study to the JWG but was unable to attend the meeting. It was agreed that the NSWMC would contact Adam to arrange a presentation at the next meeting.

ACTION:

- NSWMC to contact Adam Gilligan to arrange a presentation of the interim results of the Lower Hunter Dust Deposition Study.

7. Other Air Quality Initiatives

The working group noted the updates on community notification, coal train dust, national air quality standards, and the Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study.

The working group agreed that the air quality forecasts currently provided for the Sydney region should be expanded to provide for the Upper Hunter region, and that it was important to press the matter with the EPA. It was suggested and agreed that the matter be referred to the

newly-established JASC to raise with the EPA.

Further, the group noted that the results of the Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study will be released in 2016, and expressed a desire for Adam Gilligan from the EPA to present them at the next JWG meeting, should they be released in time.

The working group also discussed woodsmoke reduction programs and considered whether the Dialogue could play a role in advocating these initiatives, however there was no conclusive viewpoint.

ACTION:

- NSWMC to refer the community notification issue to the JASC for follow-up with EPA.
- NSWMC to contact Adam Gilligan to arrange a presentation of the results of the Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study.

8. Other Business

No other business.

The meeting closed at 4:30pm.

**Actions arising from meeting on 5 August 2015
UHMD Emissions and Health Joint Working Group Meeting**

Action	Responsibility	Status
1. Welcome and Apologies		
2. Confirmation of Minutes of 8 May 2015		
3. Establishment of Joint Advisory Steering Committee		
4. Weather Forecast Reporting		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSWMC to request that NSW Health comment on the health implications of the 7 May dust-storm event. 	NSWMC	Ongoing
5. Engagement of the resource and updating of UHMD communications plan		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSWMC to include a standing agenda item at the end of each meeting to consider and provide input/feedback to the resource to form a communique. 	NSWMC	Completed
6. Lower Hunter Dust Deposition Study - Interim Results		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSWMC to contact Adam Gilligan to arrange a presentation of the interim results of the Lower Hunter Dust Deposition Study. 	NSWMC	Completed
7. Other Air Quality Initiatives		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSWMC to refer the community notification issue to the JASC for follow-up with OEH. 	NSWMC	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSWMC to contact Adam Gilligan to arrange a presentation of the results of the Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study. 	NSWMC	Completed
8. Other business		