

DRAFT MINUTES

NSW Minerals Council UHMD – Joint Working Group – Land Management UMHD Resource Centre, Singleton Town Square Shopping Centre, Singleton

Thursday 21 July 2016: 9.30am - 11.15am

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Present

Bill Baxter (Chair)
Bruce Devonport
Dee Murdoch
John Drinan
Simon Francis
Jason Desmond
Nigel Charnock
Digby Short
Wendy Bowman
Andrew Darnell
John Trotter
Ron Fenwick
Andrew Rode
Greg Sullivan
Craig Milton

Rio Tinto
Singleton Council
AECOM
Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group
NSW Department of Primary Industries
The Bloomfield Group
Glencore
Ashton Coal
NSW Mine Watch
BHP Billiton
NSW Department of Resources and Energy
UHMD - Community Representative
NSW Minerals Council
NSW Minerals Council
NSW Minerals Council

Apology

Donna McLaughlin
Cameron Archer
Rebekah Gomez-Fort
Julie Thomas
Sean Constable
Neil Griffiths
Jo Powells
Jim Morgan
Jan Davis
Tim Roberts
Glenda Briggs
Matthew Newton

BHP Billiton
Tocal Agricultural Centre
NSW Department of Primary Industries
Muswellbrook Coal
Upper Hunter Shire Council - Scone
NSW Department of Primary Industries
NSW Department of Primary Industries
Wybong Action Group
Hunter Environment Lobby - Maitland
The University of Newcastle
NSW Department of Primary Industries
NSW Department of Trade and Investment

Note: Jo Powells is to be removed from the list and replaced with Helen Squires (Resource Management Officer - Agricultural Land Use Planning, NSW Department of Primary Industries)

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed attendees and noted apologies. The Chair also recognised Andrew Rode's contributions to the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue and the JWG - Land Management in particular. The Working Group endorsed the Chair's comments and expressed their appreciation and thanks to Andrew.

2. Minutes and actions of the previous meeting

The minutes for the 11 May 2016 meeting were confirmed.

3. Working group performance, relevance and strategic discussion

Group members were consulted as to what the future of the UHMD groups might be as there has been a noticeable drop off in member attendance in the other two groups. Feedback received from the Land Management JWG was that this group in particular works well as there is a healthy mix of community, regulator and industry representatives and the projects undertaken by the group continue to have relevance within the industry and wider community.

A Steering Committee proposal was raised as to whether it may be beneficial to merge the Land Management and Water JWGs as they have a considerable amount of overlap in content and membership. An additional proposal was to reduce the frequency of meetings to twice a year, but no final position will be considered until the re-survey of community sentiment is undertaken.

There was in principle support from the JWG - Land Management to merge with the Water JWG in conjunction with an ongoing effort to communicate the activities and projects of the UHMD that are seeking to improve community understanding and awareness of the issues being examined. Such an approach would also be complimentary to the proposed mine tours for school children that Bob Mackie is currently arranging. If any members have any feedback on this could they kindly provide to Greg Sullivan or Craig Milton.

ACTION:

- **NSWMC to consider the benefits of merging the Land Management and Water JWG to encourage greater involvement and productive discussion.**

4. Update on current projects

Andrew Rode provided an overview of current projects, in particular the voids projects which have been completed.

ACTIONS:

- **NSWMC to update the UHMD website with current project information.**

5. Grazing study

The grazing study draft report was discussed. Dee Murdoch offered to liaise with Neil Griffiths to improve the readability of the document.

ACTIONS:

- 1. NSWMC to arrange for Neil Griffiths and Yvette Scorgie to present at the next meeting on blood tests and grazing results**
- 2. Neil Griffiths is to enquire into the possibility of obtaining additional ACARP funding.**

6. Draft rehabilitation reporting

NSWMC is still awaiting Anglo American's final figure to complete the report. Andrew Rode has estimated

a figure using available data.

Andrew Rode explained that the 2014 D and 2015 A figures were not matching due to corrections made by companies to their final figures. Further, the figures for F have dropped in the most recent year due to some clearing of land as part of the Bulga Optimisation Project.

7. Rehabilitation awareness and promotion project

Andrew Rode provided an overview of the work being undertaken with DRE, specifically the draft rehabilitation booklet.

Several members advised that much of what is known as leading best practice procedures in land rehabilitation today had their origins as more 'gut feelings' known by those undertaking rehabilitation work in the past, and are now widely supported through scientific studies.

8. Other business

Members were encouraged to attend the *Future of Agriculture* event being organised by the Singleton Chamber of Commerce and the Singleton Council.

Andrew Rode distributed a copy of the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue poster for industry members to display across mine sites to promote the UHMD and its activities.

Bruce Davenport suggested that it would be timely to hear from DRE on the Hunter Regional Plan.

Nigel Charnock advised that it would be good to hear from the Department of Planning regarding an update on the Synoptic Plan as it's been five years.

ACTION:

- **NSWMC to distribute digital A4 and A3 copies of the UHMD poster to all Land Management members.**
- **NSWMC to contact DRE for an update on the Hunter Regional Plan.**
- **NSWMC to contact Department of Planning for an update on the synoptic plan.**

9. Next Meeting and Meeting Close

The next meeting will be on 20 October 1:00pm - 4:00pm

The meeting closed at 11:15 am

Actions arising from meeting on 11 May 2016 UHMD Land Management Joint Working Group Meeting

Action	Responsibility	Status
1. Welcome and Apologies		
2. Minutes and actions of the previous meeting		
3. Working group performance, relevance and strategic discussion		

NSWMC to consider the benefits of merging the Land Management and Water JWG to encourage greater involvement and productive discussion.	NSWMC	Completed
4. Update on current projects		
NSWMC to update the UHMD website with links to the five voids projects, subject to publishing approval.	NSWMC	Partially completed
5. Grazing study		
Neil Griffiths to present at the next meeting on blood tests and grazing results	theresource	Completed
Neil Griffiths is to enquire into follow on ACARP funding	theresource	On going
6. Draft rehabilitation reporting		
7. Rehabilitation awareness and promotion project		
8. Other business		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NSWMC to distribute digital A4 and A3 copies of the UHMD poster to all Land Management members. 	NSWMC	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NSWMC to contact DRE for an update on the Regional Plan 	NSWMC	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NSWMC to contact Department of Planning for an update on the synoptic plan. 	NSWMC	Completed
9. Next meeting and meeting close		