

# DRAFT MINUTES

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

Wednesday 11 May 2016: 1.30pm- 4.30pm

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### Present

Bill Baxter (Chair)  
Nigel Charnock  
Julie Thomas  
Bob Mackie  
Jim Morgan  
Sean Constable  
Monique Meyer  
John Hindmarsh  
Rebekah Gomez-Fort  
Greg Woodward  
John Drinan  
Steve Brown  
Andrew Rode

Rio Tinto  
Glencore  
Muswellbrook Coal Company Limited  
*theresource*  
Wybong Action Group  
Upper Hunter Shire Council  
NSW Department of Industry, Division of Resources and Energy  
The Bloomfield Group  
NSW Department of Primary Industries  
Community member  
Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group  
The Bloomfield Group  
NSW Minerals Council

### Apology

Dee Murdoch  
Glenda Briggs  
Matthew Newton  
Greg Sullivan  
Ron Fenwick  
Wendy Bowman  
Jason Desmond  
Sarah Withell  
Neil Griffiths  
Jo Powells  
Digby Short  
Bruce Devonport  
Tim Roberts  
Melinda Hale  
Ian Napier  
Arthur Burns

AECOM  
Department of Primary Industries  
NSW Department of Industry, Division of Resources and Energy  
NSW Minerals Council  
Community member  
NSW Mine Watch  
The Bloomfield Group  
BHP Billiton  
NSW Department of Primary Industries  
NSW Department of Primary Industries  
Ashton Coal  
Singleton Council  
The University of Newcastle  
Singleton Council  
Hunter Valley Wine Industry Association  
Hunter Valley Water Users' Association

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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 of the 11 November 2015 meeting were confirmed.

### **ONGOING ACTION:**

- NSWMC to organise a presentation from OEH on the Upper Hunter Strategic Assessment, when the materials are publicly released.

### **NEW ACTIONS:**

- NSWMC to follow-up information relating to the University of Newcastle's analysis of voids.

## **3. Update on current projects**

The working group noted the updates to the rehabilitation reporting and grazing study projects.

## **4. Biodiversity Reference Sites project**

The working group discussed the proposed scope of the project. The working group considered the benefit of this project to be that it provided more robustness and certainty that a rehabilitated site had been returned to a comparative state. The working group suggested that:

- It be made clear that it is the reference site information that is being shared. Not the sites themselves.
- That Umwelt provide suggestions on how best to share the information.
- That Umwelt include in its scope a map and photos of the reference sites.
- That industry members be provided the opportunity to provide further detailed comments.

### **ACTIONS:**

- Umwelt to revise the scope of work for the Biodiversity Reference Sites project to include:
  - A map of the reference sites.
  - Photos of the sites.
  - Advice on how best to share the reference site information.
- Industry members to be provided a further opportunity to review the scope in detail, and provide comment.

## **5. Rehabilitation awareness and promotion project**

The working group discussed the project and it was agreed that the working group should stay involved in the development and review of the project.

## **6. DRE Exploration and Mining Rehabilitation Factsheet**

The working group considered DRE's factsheet and suggested it could be improved with some simple schematics to make it easier to understand. The working group also suggested that there were a range of opportunities to promote rehabilitation successes beyond "safe and stable" landforms. It was noted that the rehabilitation awareness and promotion project would deliver this need, such as by producing rehabilitation examples such as collated in the Minerals Council of Australia's case studies presented in its *'Mine rehabilitation in the Australian minerals industry'*.

## **ACTIONS:**

- NSWMC to send MCA rehabilitation report to working group.

### **7. Voids project**

The working group noted that the deliverables of the voids project had been completed. Some members of the working group expressed significant concerns associated with water use and water quality in voids and that future voids should be backfilled. It was believed that a better understanding of each void was required to inform potential end uses and limitations to those uses.

Some other members believed there were a range of potential end uses, and that it was important to be able to understand when they would be available for use, whether a Development Application could be changed to facilitate different uses and simplify the transfer of ownership for the voids.

It was suggested that NSWMC meet with the Department of Planning and Environment to discuss a regional voids strategy.

## **ACTION:**

- NSWMC to discuss a regional voids strategy with the Department of Planning and Environment.

### **8. Pasture Plants of the Upper Hunter book**

The working group discussed the possible funding of a Pasture Plants of the Upper Hunter book.

The working group believed that the ~\$30,000 price tag was too high as a stand-alone UHMD project. However the working group was interested to know whether the cost could be significantly reduced by producing it as a pdf only, and whether there were any other potential partners interested in funding it (e.g. DPE, LLS). Establishing a user pays mechanism was also suggested.

## **ACTION:**

- Neil Griffiths to advise the estimated cost of a pdf-only version of the Pasture Plants of the Upper Hunter book, and whether any other potential funding partners existed.

### **9. 2015 UHMD Annual Forum report**

The working group noted the outcomes of the UHMD Annual Forum.

### **10. Update on UHMD communications initiatives and media mentions**

The working group noted the updates on UHMD communications.

### **11. Working group performance, relevance and strategic direction**

Due to time constraints, it was suggested that this item be discussed at the next JWG meeting.

## **ACTION:**

- Working group to discuss working group performance, relevance and strategic direction at next JWG meeting.

### **12. Other business**

No other business. The meeting closed at 4:20pm.

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

Action	Responsibility	Status
<b>1. Welcome and Apologies</b>		
<b>2. Minutes and actions of the previous meeting</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSWMC to organise a presentation from OEH on the Upper Hunter Strategic Assessment, when the materials are publicly released.</li> </ul>	<b>NSWMC</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSWMC to follow-up information relating to the University of Newcastle's analysis of voids.</li> </ul>	<b>NSWMC</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<b>3. Update on current projects</b>		
<b>4. Biodiversity Reference Sites project</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Umwelt to revise the scope of work for the Biodiversity Reference Sites project to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A map of the reference sites.</li> <li>Photos of the sites.</li> <li>Advice on how best to share the reference site information.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>NSWMC / Umwelt</b>	<b>In progress</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industry members to be provided a further opportunity to review the scope in detail, and provide comment.</li> </ul>	<b>NSWMC &amp; Industry representatives</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<b>5. Rehabilitation awareness and promotion project</b>		
<b>6. DRE Exploration and Mining Rehabilitation Factsheet</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSWMC to send MCA rehabilitation report to working group.</li> </ul>	<b>NSWMC</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<b>7. Voids project</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSWMC to discuss a regional voids strategy with the Department of Planning and Environment.</li> </ul>	<b>NSWMC</b>	<b>In progress</b>
<b>8. Pasture Plants of the Upper Hunter book</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neil Griffiths to advise the estimated cost of a pdf-only version of the Pasture Plants of the Upper Hunter book, and whether any other potential funding partners existed.</li> </ul>	<b>Neil Griffiths</b>	<b>In progress</b>
<b>9. 2015 UHMD Annual Forum Report</b>		
<b>10. Update on UHMD communications initiatives and media mentions</b>		
<b>11. Working group performance, relevance and strategic direction</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working group to discuss working group performance, relevance and strategic direction at next JWG meeting.</li> </ul>	<b>NSWMC</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<b>12. Other business</b>		