

**Actions arising from meeting on 8 May 2015
UHMD Joint Working Group Land Management**

Action	Responsibility	Status
1. Welcome and Apologies		
2. Confirmation of Minutes of 11 November 2014		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correct the date on the minutes. 	NSWMC	Completed
3. Update on current projects		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSWMC to discuss with the Commonwealth Department of the Environment the potential to fund the biodiversity reference sites project. 	NSWMC	Completed
4. Grazing study update		
5. Beneficial reuse of voids project		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider geology of void sites to determine whether they are representative examples for the Upper Hunter. 	NSWMC / Glencore / BHP Billiton	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSWMC to organise a DRE presentation on regulation of mine closure plans and principles, including relating to rehabilitation of voids. 	NSWMC	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSWMC to organise a DPE presentation on strategic and infrastructure planning for the Upper Hunter. 	NSWMC	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSWMC to engage with the regional representative at DPC on the need for a regional vision for the Upper Hunter. 	NSWMC	Completed - refer to Item 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSWMC to organise a government presentation on water issues in voids. 	NSWMC	Ongoing
6. 2014 Rehabilitation reporting result		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Companies to present 2014 rehabilitation reporting the results at the following JWG meeting. 	Industry representatives and NSWMC	Completed - refer to Item 6
7. Rehabilitation mapping and signage in the Hunter		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSWMC to discuss ideas for a rehabilitation project with DRE. 	NSWMC	Completed - refer to Item 8
8. 2014 UHMD Workshop - ideas and issues - land management		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSWMC to organise a presentation from OEH on the Upper Hunter Strategic Assessment, when the materials are publicly released. 	NSWMC	Ongoing
9. Liddell Grazing study outcomes		
10. Other business		

DRAFT Minutes

**UHMD Joint Working Group Land Management
Singleton Visitor Information Centre, Townhead Park, Singleton NSW**

Friday 8 May 2015: 9:00am - 12:30pm

Present

John Drinan	Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group
Dee Murdoch	AECOM
Sean Constable	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Lester McCormick	Department of Primary Industries
Neil Nelson	Singleton Beef and Land Management Association
Jim Morgan	Wybong Action Group
Wendy Bowman	NSW Mine Watch
Bruce Devonport	Singleton Council
Jason Desmond	The Bloomfield Group
Tim Roberts	The Tom Farrell Institute for the Environment
Kirstin Blaikie	Anglo American
Julie Thomas	Muswellbrook Coal Company
Andrew Rode	NSW Minerals Council
Greg Sullivan	NSW Minerals Council

Apologies

Nigel Charnock	Glencore
Luke Stevens	BHP Billiton
Peter Jaeger	Peabody Energy
Bill Baxter	Coal & Allied
Jo Powells	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Glenda Briggs	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Neil Griffiths	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Leonie Ball	Singleton Beef and Land Management Association
Steve Clarkson	Singleton Council

1. Welcome and Apologies

Greg Sullivan advised that Troy Favell was no longer working at Peabody Energy and that therefore the chair was vacant. Greg offered to chair the meeting and the working group was agreeable. Greg welcomed the working group members and noted the apologies.

2. Confirmation of the minutes and actions from the meeting of 14 November 2014

The working group noted a correction with the date of the minutes. The minutes of the meeting on 14 November 2014 were confirmed.

Lester McCormick provided a brief overview of the grazing trial being undertaken at Oakey in Queensland.

ACTION:

- Correct the date on the minutes.

3. Update on current projects

Biodiversity Reference Sites

Andrew Rode advised that funding for the project was still proving challenging, but that the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) had been approached to see whether the project could be partially funded by them.

Ron Fenwick said that the reluctance of companies to fund the project was concerning and that following approvals companies are required to undertake the necessary monitoring and surveying. Greg Sullivan advised that companies were meeting their obligations in relation to monitoring and surveying and that the project was an initiative that was going beyond the approval conditions.

John Drinan suggested that Commonwealth funding for the project be sought.

ACTION:

- NSWMC to discuss with the Commonwealth Department of the Environment the potential to fund the biodiversity reference sites project.

4. Grazing study update

Andrew and Lester provided an update on the grazing study.

5. Beneficial reuse of voids project

Andrew advised that the next stage of the project involved water quality analysis of the voids, and that Golder Associates had been commissioned to undertake the work. It was suggested that the three void sites that had been selected for water quality analysis be considered from a geological point of view to determine whether they are a representative sample of the Upper Hunter mining industry.

The working group discussed the issues around mine closure planning, mine operation plans, rehabilitation, government regulation, final void plans, use of voids for waste disposal, beneficial uses of voids, on site infrastructure and opportunities for economic diversification. It was suggested that the working group would benefit from a presentation on the Division of Resources and Energy's (DRE's) responsibility in regulating mine closure and relinquishment.

The working group believed that it was important to put mine closure plans into context with strategic regional growth and infrastructure planning to determine a long term vision for the Upper Hunter. Dee Murdoch advised that AECOM and the Tom Farrell Institute were preparing an ACARP proposal to inform such a long term vision. It was suggested that the working group would benefit from a presentation from the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) on the strategic and infrastructure planning that is being undertaken for the Upper Hunter region.

It was also believed that the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) would be an appropriate government agency to engage with on the issues of regional planning and a long term vision for mining regions following mine rehabilitation and closure.

The working group also believed that the working group would benefit from a presentation on water issues in voids.

ACTIONS:

- Consider geology of void sites to determine whether they are representative examples for the Upper Hunter.
- NSWMC to organise a DRE presentation on regulation of mine closure plans and principles, including relating to rehabilitation of voids.
- NSWMC to organise a DPE presentation on strategic and infrastructure planning for the Upper Hunter.
- NSWMC to engage with the regional representative at DPC on the need for a regional vision for the Upper Hunter.
- NSWMC to organise a government presentation on water issues in voids.

6. 2014 Rehabilitation reporting results

Andrew advised that rehabilitation reporting was yet to be completed by all companies.

ACTIONS:

- Companies to present 2014 rehabilitation reporting the results at the following JWG meeting.

7. Rehabilitation mapping and signage in the Hunter

Andrew and Greg outlined a project idea relating to the promotion of existing rehabilitation in the Upper Hunter through use of mapping, signage or other means - with DRE to potentially assist through financial and/or other in-kind support.

The working group believed that an interactive map would be beneficial, with a series of supportive photos, age of the rehabilitation and end land use.

It was suggested that DRE had a range of GIS resources including aerial photography, satellite imagery and before / after photographs.

Tim Roberts suggested the Greater Eastern Ranges project as another source of information relating to rehabilitation.

Bruce Devonport suggested that the Hunter & Central Coast Regional Environmental Management Strategy (HCCREMS) group had also undertaken significant mapping of rehabilitated sites.

Jim Morgan suggested that it was important for people to be able to experience rehabilitated areas first

hand, by being able to visit the areas. There were some issues raised round controlling public access to private lands / restricted areas.

An interactive video was also suggested by the working group.

ACTION:

- NSWMC to discuss ideas for a rehabilitation project with DRE.

8. 2014 UHMD Workshop - ideas and issues - land management

Andrew provided an overview of the discussions on land management at the 2014 UHMD Annual Workshop. The key issues appeared to be in relation to biodiversity impacts, rehabilitation and land use strategic approaches across the Upper Hunter - which are at least to some extent being addressed through existing initiatives.

The working group believed that it was important to understand and plan for what the Hunter Valley will be in the medium to long term.

Offsetting was considered a key issue due to offsetting impacting on agriculture and offsets being placed on land that could be mined. It was suggested that a presentation be provided by OEH on the Upper Hunter Strategic Assessment, which was investigating biodiversity and offsetting in the Upper Hunter.

ACTION:

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

9. Liddell Grazing study outcomes

Neil Nelson provided an overview of the Liddell grazing trial. The presentation is **attached** to the minutes.

10. Other Business

Due to the potential large number of presentations required at the next JWG meeting, it was suggested that a longer meeting be held. The working group hoped that the presentation slides could be sent to the working group in preparation for the presentations to assist with interpretation and assist with the development of relevant questions.

The working group also suggested that it was important to discuss the working groups activities, particularly relating to the grazing trial and the voids project.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 5 August 2015.