

MINUTES

Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue UHMD Joint Working Group Meeting - Land Management Quest Apartments, Singleton – Thursday 9 May

In Attendance

Chris Quinn	Vale Integra Coal Operations
Morgana Gidley-Baird	Mt Arthur Coal BHP Billiton
Craig Flemming	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Matthew Newton	NSW Department of Trade and Investment
Tony Cox	NSW Department of Trade and Investment
Chris Knight	Idemitsu Australia Resources Group
Wendy Bowman	NSW Mine Watch
Matt Parkinson	Bayswater Power Station
Bill Baxter	Rio Tinto - Coal & Allied Industries Ltd
Jim Morgan	Wybong Action Group
Brooke York	Anglo American Metallurgical Coal
Clarence Robertson	Anglo American Metallurgical Coal
Claire Doherty	NSW Minerals Council
Ron Fenwick	

Apologies

Neil Nelson	Singleton Beef and Land Management Association
Steve Clarkson	Singleton Council
Leonie Ball	Singleton Beef and Land Management Association
Jason Desmond	Bloomfield Collieries
Angela Hawdon	Fauna & Flora
Nigel Charnock	Glencore
Emma Ridley	Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association Inc
Jo Powells	NSW Department of Primary Industries
John Drinan	Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group
Chris Knight	Idemitsu Australia Resources Group
Ken Bray	Hunter Valley Water Users' Association
Scotney Moore	Yancoal Australia - Ashton Coal Operations Pty Ltd

1. Welcome and Apologies

Clarence Robertson welcomed the members and noted the apologies.

2. Confirmation of minutes and actions arising from 15 November 2013 meeting

The minutes were confirmed.

It was noted that the action item with regard to including a ratio of rehabilitated land to disturbed land has now been included in the rehabilitation data reporting

Matt Parkinson, Macquarie Generation noted that they have a void filled with fly ash that could be included in any rehabilitation tour.

3. Update on Projects

The following projects were discussed:

Grazing study

Lester McCormick, Department of Primary Industries (DPI) provided an update on the progress of the project. Lester advised the group that:

- ACARP funding is confirmed. ACARP have also advised that there is a possibility of further funding in the future when the project has results.
- Lester is also going to speak to Meat and Livestock Australia about potential involvement/funding for future extension of the project
- DPI are undertaking Land Function Analysis and soil sampling. This has been delayed by the wet weather.
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- The companies are progressing their fencing and other infrastructure
- At the request of the joint working group, Neil Nelson has been engaged by NSWMC to advise on the selection of the steers for the project. Coal & Allied's leasees have now purchased 30 Angus steers. Mt Arthur's leasee will use Angus stock from his herd.
- DPI are working on a set of protocols on the management of the stock to ensure consistent management across the two sites.

Ron Fenwick asked about the timing of the sale of the steers. Lester advised that we are moving away from a fixed date to making a commercial decision about this, within the boundaries of ensuring the study remains scientifically robust. Advice from the Grazing Study Advisory Panel (Agenda Item 4) will be sought with regard to this issue.

Jim Morgan noted that there were some interesting insights gained from the trip to Liddell and their trial, and that it would be worthwhile integrating management of the study with that trial where we can.

It was noted that there is a lot of similarity. Nigel Charnock from Glencore is on this group and we can use the group to keep updated about the Liddell trial and understand where we can take a common approach.

4. Proposed Grazing Study Advisory Panel

DPI propose to form an advisory panel to assist in the adaptive management of the grazing study, and to ensure that the project is, as much as practicable, reflective of local practices.

The joint working group agreed to the proposed composition of the panel, including the companies, the leasees, DPI, DRE (Division of Resources and Energy) and two community group/ local grazier representatives.

DPI nominated Wendy Bowman and Leonie Ball to take up the local representative positions and both accepted. Ron Fenwick asked to be able to observe the meetings from time to time and this was agreed by the working group.

DPI will provide the secretariat for the meetings.

5. December Workshop Feedback

This paper was noted.

6. Other business