

**Actions arising from meeting on 30 July 2013
UHMD Land Management Working Group Meeting**

Action	Responsibility	Status
1. Welcome and Apologies		
2. Confirmation of Minutes of 22 April		
3. Grazing Study – Presentation by Department of Primary Industries		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPI to formalise the approved grazing study design and this to be circulated to the joint working group. • A site tour of HVO and Wandewoi to be undertaken by the joint working group. • MAC to clarify participation of leasees, as well as the proposed area of the rehabilitation study site and the analogue study site. • DPI/ NSWMC to continue to pursue funding sources for the project. 		
4. Update on other Projects		
<p><i>Rehabilitation Principles</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend the Principles to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – -Add a preamble – -Change “newly rehabilitated” to “newly commenced to be rehabilitated” in part C of the metrics for rehabilitation reporting. • Include a review period. • Industry to scope the reporting against the Principles. <p><i>Biodiversity Reference Sites</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSWMC to organise Umwelt to provide an update on their work on the project at the next joint working group meeting. 		
5. Workshop – New Project for 2014		
6. Other business		

DRAFT MINUTES

UHMD Land Management Meeting Visitor Information Centre, Townhead Park, Singleton 30 July 2013: 10.30 am to 12.00 noon

Present:

Leonie Ball	Singleton Beef and Land Management Association
Wendy Bowman	NSW Mine Watch
Nigel Charnock	Glencore Xstrata
Steve Clarkson	Singleton Council
Lachlan Crawford	BHP Billiton Mt Arthur Coal
Hayley Crowther	Vale Australia Pty Ltd
Jason Desmond	Bloomfield Collieries - Rix's Creek Pty Ltd
Claire Doherty	NSWMC
John Drinan	Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group
Ron Fenwick	
Brooke Lavis	Anglo American Metallurgical Coal
Michael McFayden	NSW Department of Trade & Investment, Division of Resources and Energy
Scotney Moore	Yancoal - Ashton Coal Operations Pty Ltd
Neil Nelson	Singleton Beef and Land Management Association
Matt Pringle	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Clarence Robertson	Anglo American Metallurgical Coal
Chris Knight	Idemitsu Australia Resources Group - Muswellbrook Coal Company Ltd
Steve Eccles	Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority
Bill Baxter	Rio Tinto - Coal & Allied Industries Ltd
Jennifer Warner	Department of Primary Industries
John Dengate	Twyfords
Craig Flemming	Muswellbrook Shire Council

Apologies

Peter Forbes	Anglo American Metallurgical Coal
Neil Griffiths	Department of Primary Industries
Sean Constable	Upper Hunter Shire Council - Scone

Ian Napier	Hunter Valley Wine Industry Association
Emma Ridley	Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association Inc
Greg Summerhayes	NSW Department of Trade and Investment
Jan Davis	Hunter Environment Lobby - Maitland

1 Welcome and Apologies

Clarence Robertson welcomed the members of the joint working group noted the apologies. Claire Doherty introduced John Dengate from Twyfords. Claire confirmed that the agenda for the meeting would be to deal with actions arising and current project papers first, with the second half of the meeting to

2 Confirmation of Minutes of 22 April 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2013 were confirmed.

3 Grazing Study – Presentation by Department of Primary Industries

Lester McCormick from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) presented an updated design for the grazing trial. The updated design proposes that:

- The operation will reflect a trading operation.
- The leasees currently grazing on Coal & Allied and Mt Arthur land will purchase 20 steers. 10 of the steers will be grazed on rehabilitated mine land and the other 10 steers will be grazed on an analogue site which has not been mined and is considered representative of the area. Leasees will be incentivised by the mines through reduction in rent.
- The steers will be a consistent line from the same producers. Neil Nelson will assist in the purchase of the steers. Steers will be purchased in autumn 2014 as this is the optimal time. NSWMC will fund Neil's involvement.

Steve Clarkson, Singleton Council asked about the presence of Rhodes grass on the rehabilitated sites, noting that this would not persist under grazing. Lester advised that this is present as the rehabilitation sites are older. Cattle are currently grazing on Coal & Allied's Hunter Valley Operations rehabilitation on Rhodes grass. Neil noted that Rhodes grass exists on much of the older, established rehabilitation and it is important that we understand how these areas will stand up to grazing, and how best to manage it and whether this can be done sustainably.

Lester advised that the stocking rate would be three hectares per steer. This would mean each study site would be 30 hectares. It was noted that there is more land available and there is flexibility to increase, decrease if this is necessary. Any changes would need to be consistent across study sites. If the area used is not economically sustainable this will be evident in the economic analysis that DPI is going to undertake.

Ron Fenwick noted that this project will look at land which is being rehabilitated for grazing, but questioned how we can understand how land previously used for dairying may have been impacted. The group noted that this issue, but also noted that the study always been about grazing land.

Nigel Charnock asked about the breed of the cattle. Lester advised that it would need to be consistent and would be likely to be a British breed.

Bill Baxter noted that the autumn would be the best time to purchase the stock. Bill confirmed that the leasee currently grazing on HVO is willing to take part in the study. Bill noted that Coal & Allied own a property which would be an appropriate analogue, the Wandewoi property which was formerly owned by the Moses family. This property was known by a number of members of the group. It was agreed that a site inspection of both the HVO rehabilitation grazing site and Wandewoi would be appropriate before the group provided final advice on the analogue.

Lachlan Crawford from BHP Billiton Mt Arthur Coal (MAC) advised that they have a number of options in terms of analogue properties and leasees who might participate and that they are considering these.

It was noted that the results of the first round of the ACARP funding application process should be available soon. This process will not be finalised until December 2013, and in the meantime other sources of funding are going to be looked at, including whether the Department of Trade and Investment, Division of Resources and Energy can provide funding.

ACTIONS

- DPI to formalise the approved grazing study design and this to be circulated to the joint working group.
- A site tour of HVO and Wandewoi to be undertaken by the joint working group.
- MAC to clarify participation of leasees, as well as the proposed area of the rehabilitation study site and the analogue study site.
- DPI/ NSWMC to continue to pursue funding sources for the project.

4 Update on other Projects

Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments

Claire noted that as agreed at the last meeting of the Joint Working Group a small sub-group including Claire, Brooke Lavis, Michael McFadyen, Laurie Perry, Ron Fenwick and John Drinan

met to consider the Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments. The group agreed that the Principles were appropriate but recommended that a preamble be added. The preamble will clarify the aim of the Principles and also refer to the importance of clear rehabilitation goals, consultation and quality of rehabilitation and note the Land Management Goal 2.

The paper suggests a small change to the wording of the metrics, which is agreed, "*Change 'newly rehabilitated' to 'newly commenced to be rehabilitated' in part C of the metrics for rehabilitation reporting*". Ron suggested that a review of the Principles be built in. The joint working group agreed that a review would be appropriate.

ACTIONS

- Amend the Rehabilitation Principles and Commitment to:
 - Add a preamble
 - Change "newly rehabilitated" to "newly commenced to be rehabilitated" in part C of the metrics for rehabilitation reporting
 - Include a review period.
- Industry to scope the reporting against the Principles.

Biodiversity Reference Sites

Claire advised that Umwelt have been engaged to undertake the consultancy for this project. They have commenced the work. By the next meeting of the JWG there will be substantive progress on the project and NSWMC will arrange for Umwelt to be present to provide an update.

ACTION

- NSWMC to organise Umwelt to provide an update on their work on the project at the next joint working group meeting.

5 Workshop – New Project for 2014

The second part of the meeting was dedicated to workshopping new project ideas. This part of the meeting was not minuted. The results of the workshop are captured in the Joint Working Group - Land Management Workshop Report, 30 July 2013.

6 Other business

No other business.

7 Meeting close

Meeting closed 12.00 noon.