

MINUTES

NSW Minerals Council Joint Working Group Water and Land Management Meeting

UHMD Resource Centre, Upstairs of the Town Square Shopping Centre
Suite 1, 159 John Street, Singleton NSW 2330

Tuesday 27 June: 10.00am- 1.00pm

In attendance

Bill Baxter (Chair)	Rio Tinto
Cameron Archer	Tom Farrell Institute
James Barben	Yancoal
Merri Bartlett	Peabody Energy
Wendy Bowman	NSW Mine Watch
Ken Bray	Hunter Valley Water Users Association
Ron Fenwick	Wambo CCC
Neil Griffiths	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Neil McElhinney	Division of Resources and Geoscience
Chris New	Rio Tinto
Chris Quinn	The Bloomfield Group
Julie Thomas	Muswellbrook Coal
Bob Mackie	the resource
Greg Sullivan	NSW Minerals Council
Craig Milton	NSW Minerals Council

Guest

Dayjil Fincham	HEC / University of Queensland
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Apology

Paul Amidy	Glencore
Leonie Ball	Singleton Beef and Land Management Association
Glenda Briggs	NSW Department of Industry
Phillip Brown	Yancoal
Nigel Charnock	Glencore
Sean Constable	Upper Hunter Shire Council - Scone
Andrew Darnell	BHP Billiton
Simon Francis	NSW Department of Primary Industries - Water
Melinda Hale / Mary Ann Crawford	Singleton Council
Karen Marker	NSW Environment Protection Authority
Jim Morgan	Wybong Action Group
Jonathan Moore	NSW Farmers Association
Dee Murdoch	AECOM
Jo Powell	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Professor Tim Roberts	Tom Farrell Institute, University of Newcastle
John Trotter / Monique Meyer	Division of Resources and Geoscience
Greg Sullivan	NSW Minerals Council

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed attendees and noted apologies.

2. Minutes and Actions from Previous Meeting

The minutes were accepted with one suggested change to Agenda item 3 in relation to the UHMD cattle grazing trials. Mr. Griffiths advised that there were no problems with the blood sampling, and that it was the fat sampling of cattle which had received some criticism.

This led into a discussion regarding the recent ABC television stories on the grazing trials and a number of sampling related questions, which were discussed in detail further in the agenda.

3. Hunter River Water Quality Study

Mr. Sullivan provided an overview of the water quality study, noting that we are close to commencing, following Professor Richard Bush's return.

Mr. Bray noted a number of points that may need to be considered before the sampling occurs, which included:

- The possibility of sampling from downstream to upstream, as this would enable easier detection of issues; and
- There is double flow in the river at the moment, which could have some bearing on the results.

Professor Bush will contact Mr. Bray and industry representatives to establish the Steering Committee, where such suggestions can be incorporated.

Mr. Sullivan advised that results for this study are expected to be reported back to the UHMD by the end of the year and should be available for release at the UHMD Forum for 2017, if not UHMD meetings in November.

4. Water Accounting Framework Data 2016

Mr. Milton provided a brief update that the Water Accounting Framework project would be commencing for 2016 shortly. Members were encouraged to provide suggestions to help the 2017 project along.

Mr. Bray provided some helpful suggestions for the infographic sheets to display a historical bar graph given there is quite a collection of data collected now that will indicate trends.

ACTION:

- **UHMD Secretariat to work with Ms. Fincham and members to incorporate any trending data into the fact sheets produced in this project.**

5. Update on Water Projects

Mr. Milton provided a brief update on other water projects. With regards to the Bioregional Assessments Programme, Mr. Bray raised an issue with the assessments of water between those done on the coast and that west of the divide. Mr. Barben advised that they have gone beyond this immediate area and are modelling across the region.

6. Other business (Water)

No additional business relating to water issues was discussed.

7. Synoptic Plan Workshop and Review

Mr. Sullivan provided an update on the Synoptic Plan Workshop, noting the impressive attendance and diverse attendees, noting this came about through continued pressure from the Dialogue. Mr. Sullivan advised that the DPC has acknowledged they have a critical role to play at this stage and will continue to

be actively involved for a period of time. Correspondence is expected shortly involving a summary of the feedback and a direction for the process ahead.

The JWG members were asked how this process should unfold. Mr. Baxter suggested it would be worthwhile re-assembling a representative group of the workshop members to review the scope and determine if this is what the Upper Hunter community wants. Mr. Sullivan advised that this is important to keep on the government's agenda and the UHMD secretariat will continue to follow up on progress. Groups such as this which meet regularly are a vital tool in keeping this process active.

Mr Bray advised that there have been a number of similarly themed workshops recently, which may be concern. Ms Bowman further advised that it is important that DPC actually visit some sites to know what they're dealing. Mr Sullivan advised the UHMD secretariat will meet with the DPC to request they continue to lead the review process to ensure there is stability and no duplication. DPC could consider establishing a core steering group across the government department personnel to keep the government's commitment on track.

ACTIONS:

- **UHMD secretariat to invite the DPC to the next JWG meeting to provide an update on the Synoptic Plan review process.**
- **UHMD secretariat to meet with DPC to request they continue to lead the review process and seek a formal update on further consultation, decisions made and a projected timeline, prior to their JWG appearance.**
- **UHMD secretariat to circulate DPC summary of workshop, scope of review, and advisory group proposals once received.**

8. School Mine Tours Program Update

Mr. Mackie provided an update on the program. The Project Steering Group recently met and the key outcome was that the preparation of materials is underway and plans are to integrate these into the school syllabi wherever possible. Mr. Sullivan encouraged sites to return their site surveys as the project cannot begin preparing the allocation of schools to sites until this stage is completed.

Working Group members noted the considerable progress made on this initiative and the efforts of the Steering Group to make a simple idea a reality. There have been several complications and unforeseen factors, however the slow incremental rollout has proven to be a success and the pilot tours have been instrumental in identifying improvements throughout the process. Mr. Sullivan noted the interaction with teachers has been invaluable. Mr. Sullivan requested that any suggestions be provided to the UHMD secretariat and these will be passed on to the Steering Group.

9. Presentation: Dayjil Fincham on 'Learnings from Lusatia'

Ms. Fincham provided a presentation to the Working Group on her 'Learnings from Lusatia' project. Ms. Fincham encouraged members to complete the survey in the next week to ensure that analysis can be undertaken.

A member queried whether Ms. Fincham will be looking at regulatory aspects related to the accelerated filling of voids. Ms. Fincham confirmed that she is looking to undertake a technical study to see if accelerated filling affects the water quality and determine what solutions may be needed. Mr. O'Brien at Glencore has offered details of their voids for the purposes of the tech study. Ms. Fincham also confirmed that the geometry of the void will be considered.

Mr. Sullivan noted the Dialogue's long history of interest in the beneficial reuse of voids, notably the Golder's Associate reports, and that a technical study would be a logical next step in a longer process. Given some of the voids are yet to exist yet, industry needs to turn its mind and that of the government's to determining how these might be used and what impacts may need to be addressed to meet those needs.

Mr. Sullivan noted that there is no Australian equivalent to the IBA from the Lusatia Lakes example, and that the Hunter Development Corporation is the closest entity. They will be briefed on the Synoptic Plan review process and it is hoped they will be involved moving forward.

The Working Group noted the role that the Dialogue can play in getting both the government and community interested in the opportunities that future voids may provide. Mr. Archer added that we should not let short-term planning constraints restrict thinking of what can be achieved, and that long-term vision will need to be applied to voids. Ms. Fincham agreed this is the way the German government thought when undertaking their lake project.

10. Update on UHMD communications activities

Mr. Mackie provided a summary of the various communications initiatives underway. Of interest was the VR component of the School Mine Tours and how these might interact with the UHMD appearances at field days and regional shows.

Mr. Bray provided an overview of issues regarding the management of water responsibilities between NSW Water & DPI Water, and implications that may arise from the Upper Hunter River water use being combined with metropolitan use. There is an opportunity for Mr. Bray to join a management committee to advise on this issue. Key concerns include that there may be some impacts on the long-term access of water, and that the consultation have been talking to stakeholders individually and not collectively.

ACTION:

- **UHMD secretariat to liaise with Mr. Bray on the issues regarding the management of water responsibilities, and seek additional information about the process and impacts for the Upper Hunter.**

11. Rehabilitation reporting principles and commitments for 2016

Mr. Milton provided a brief update on the rehabilitation reporting project for 2016 noting that it is close to completion and only a few sites are to confirm their results before analysis begins.

12. UHMD Grazing Trials and New Proposal

Mr. Griffiths provided an overview on the new proposal submitted for ACARP's consideration. Mr. Griffiths noted that the project and subsequent studies are dependent on the cooperation of operations providing past monitoring data of rehabilitated mine sites from their records. There is opportunity to expand the scope beyond just the Upper Hunter and into Gloucester/Ulan areas or other high-rainfall sites if there is sufficient interest and the budget allows.

The Chair agreed that all mines would have this information, but the main challenge will be to assemble it and find the suitable data. Mr. Milton encouraged all industry participants to consider providing their in-kind support and to liaise with the UHMD secretariat and Neil Griffiths to begin this process.

13. Update on Land Management projects

Mr. Milton provided an update on the current projects.

14. Other business (Land Management)

No other business was discussed.

15. Next Meeting and Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 12:40 pm.

Actions arising from meeting on 27 June 2017
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Action	Responsibility	Status
Water Accounting Framework		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UHMD Secretariat to work with Ms. Fincham and members to incorporate any trending data into the fact sheets produced in this project. 	UHMD Secretariat	In progress - 2016 project still being finalised.
Synoptic Plan Review Process		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UHMD secretariat to invite the DPC to the next JWG meeting to provide an update on the Synoptic Plan review process. 	UHMD secretariat	Completed - DPC opted to focus on Forum presentation and workshop
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UHMD secretariat to meet with DPC to request they continue to lead the review process and seek a formal update on further consultation, decisions made and a projected timeline, prior to their JWG appearance. 	UHMD secretariat	Completed - See above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UHMD secretariat to circulate DPC summary of workshop, scope of review, and advisory group proposals once received. 	UHMD secretariat	Completed
Other business (Water)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UHMD secretariat to liaise with Mr. Bray on the issues regarding the management of water responsibilities, and seek additional information about the process and impacts for the Upper Hunter. 	UHMD secretariat	In progress