

# MINUTES

## NSW Minerals Council UHMD – Joint Working Group - Water

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

Thursday 21 July 2016: 1.00pm - 4.00pm

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### In attendance

Chris New (Chair)	Rio Tinto
Chris Quinn	The Bloomfield Group
Wendy Bowman	NSW Mine Watch
Ron Fenwick	UHMD - Community Representative
Andrew Rode	NSW Minerals Council
Greg Sullivan	NSW Minerals Council
Craig Milton	NSW Minerals Council

### Guest

Dr Richard Bush	Centre for Balanced Land Use (University of Newcastle)
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### Apologies

Simon Francis	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Neville Hodgkinson	Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group
Sarah Withell	BHP Billiton
Arthur Burns	Hunter Valley Water Users' Association
Adam Gilligan	Environment Protection Authority
David O'Brien	Glencore
James Benson	Anglo American
Preshan Pillay	BHP Billiton
Rebekah Gomez-Fort	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Julie Thomas	Muswellbrook Coal Company Limited
James Barben	Yancoal Australia
Ken Bray	Hunter Valley Water Users' Association
Donna McLaughlin	BHP Billiton

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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 for the 11 May 2016 meeting were confirmed.

Andrew Rode provided an overview on the progress of actions arising from the 11 May 2016 meeting.

## **3. Water Resources Map project - Common Ground**

Andrew Rode provided an overview of the Common Ground resource developed by the Department of Energy and Resources (DRE) with a brief demonstration of the features and functionality of the site. While most of the JWG - Water group suggestions have been incorporated to the water layers, the NSWMC is still following up on river monitoring locations.

Ron Fenwick also questioned whether the site would accommodate any changes for those with colour vision deficiency issues as it can be hard to distinguish between different layers.

### **ACTION:**

- **NSWMC to follow up on the addition of river monitoring locations to the water layers.**
- **Chris New to follow up with DPI Water to determine what the schedule is for stream flow surveys.**
- **NSWMC to check whether DRE has any customisable functions to enable better display of the layers to those with colour vision deficiencies.**

## **4. Hunter Bioregional Assessment**

The Hunter Bioregional Assessment was noted.

## **5. MCA Water Accounting Framework**

NSW Minerals Council is holding off from publishing the 2014 data until the 2015 report is ready to publish. NSWMC has received all data for the 2015 year and it is expected to be launched around late August 2016, with a full article in the Newcastle Herald and website/social media publications.

## **6. Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme Review - Discussion with Professor Richard Bush**

Professor Richard Bush provided an overview of the Research Centre for Balanced Land Use which he leads at the University of Newcastle. As the position is funded by DRE, DPI and the University of Newcastle, Professor Bush's role is to bring all the departments and industry together to work collaboratively towards sustainable land use. The Chair advised that the Health of the Hunter River is an ongoing issue, especially with regards to the review of the Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme, with the EPA seeking to implement requirements to discharge water.

The JWG - Water is keen for the government to undertake some background work on the salinity and metals concentration in the Hunter River. Professor Bush advised that there are many other groups and industries that rely on the health of the river, so it shouldn't be too difficult to secure funding to look at this in greater detail. It wouldn't require too much investment to get a basic snapshot and Professor Bush advised that he would be happy to look at all these issues through an initial desktop study.

### **ACTION:**

- **Chris New is to invite Professor Richard Bush back to the next meeting of JWG - Water.**

## **7. Void project**

The Voids project was noted.

## **8. Update on UHMD Communications Initiatives**

Andrew Rode updated the JWG on the various UHMD communication initiatives and activities.

UHMD future plans were also discussed which involve a website upgrade, resurveying the community and organising mine tours for Upper Hunter School students in Years 5/6 and Years 9/10. Bob Mackie will provide NSWMC members with a proposal at the next ISC meeting.

Chris New departed to participate in filming of UHMD video at 3.45.

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

In addition to earlier discussion from actions arising from the previous meeting, the JWG proposed several action items to help improve attendee levels from members.

### **ACTIONS:**

- **That NSWMC undertake a review of past members to confirm their ongoing interest in JWG - Water (especially Muswellbrook Council, Winemakers, Hunter Water Users) and to update the list taking into account any retirements, movements and position changes.**
- **That NSWMC consider a more flexible ad-hoc approach to JWG - Water meetings and hold them on an as-needed basis.**

## **10. Other Business/Meeting Close**

No other business was raised. The meeting closed at 3:50pm.

**Actions arising from meeting on 21 July 2016  
UHMD Water Joint Working Group Meeting**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>1. Welcome and Apologies</b>		
<b>2. Minutes and actions of previous meeting</b>		
<b>3. Water Resources Map project - Common Ground</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSWMC to follow up on the addition of river monitoring locations to the water layers.</li> </ul>	<b>NSWMC</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris New to follow up with DPI Water to determine what the schedule is for stream flow surveys.</li> </ul>	<b>Chris New</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSWMC to check whether DRE has any customisable functions to enable better display of the layers to those with colour vision deficiencies.</li> </ul>	<b>NSWMC</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<b>4. Hunter Bioregional Assessment</b>		
<b>5. MCA Water Accounting Framework</b>		
<b>6. Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme Review</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris New is to invite Dr Richard Bush back to the next meeting of JWG - Water.</li> </ul>	<b>Chris New</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<b>7. Void project</b>		
<b>8. Update on UHMD Communications Initiatives</b>		
<b>9. Working group performance, relevance and strategic direction</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That NSWMC undertake a review of past members to confirm their ongoing interest in JWG - Water, and update the list taking into account any retirements, movements and position changes.</li> </ul>	<b>NSWMC</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That NSWMC consider a more flexible ad-hoc approach to JWG - Water meetings and hold them on an as-needed basis.</li> </ul>	<b>NSWMC</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<b>10. Other Business/Meeting Close</b>		