

# MINUTES

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

UMHD Resource Centre, Singleton Town Square Shopping Centre, Singleton

Thursday 6 August 2015: 10.00am – 11.50am

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### Present

Harry Egan	Peabody Energy
Chris New	Rio Tinto
Anthony Swirepek	Office of Water Science, Department of the Environment
David O'Brien	Glencore
Greg Lamb	The Bloomfield Group
James Benson	Anglo American
Shane Davey	theresource
Bob Mackie	theresource
Adam Gilligan	Environment Protection Authority
Rebekah Gomez-Fort	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Ron Fenwick	UHMD - Individual Contact
Troy Favell	Yancoal
Tony Linnane	NSW Department of Industry, Division of Resources and Energy
Andrew Rode	NSW Minerals Council
Anthony Trimarchi	NSW Minerals Council
Greg Sullivan	NSW Minerals Council

### Apology

Wendy Bowman	NSW Mine Watch
James Barben	Yancoal
Bill Collins	The University of Newcastle Australia
Kevin Ruming	NSW Trade and Investment
Julie Thomas	Muswellbrook Coal
Ken Bray	Hunter Valley Water Users' Association

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## **1. Welcome and Apologies**

David O'Brien welcomed attendees to the Joint Working Group – Water and noted apologies.

## **2. Confirmation of Minutes of 7 May 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 May were confirmed.

## **3. Establishment of Joint Advisory Steering Committee**

Greg advised that an Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Joint Advisory Steering Committee (JASC) had been established, comprising three community representatives, three representatives industry and two from local government. The purpose of the JASC is to promote, monitor progress, and provide guidance, advice and oversight on, the operation of the UHMD.

Greg advised that Chair will be David O'Brien (Glencore), and that the other two industry representatives, as well as representatives from the community and local government are yet to be confirmed. It was recommended that the Joint Working Groups and its members provide ongoing advice relating to Dialogue issues to the JASC by contacting its Chair or one of its representatives.

## **4. Presentation from Office of Water Science - Bioregional Assessment Timeframe**

Anthony Swirepik from the Office of Water Science provided a detailed presentation to the working group on progress made on the Bioregional Assessment to date, and agreed to having NSWMC circulate a copy of the presentation to the working group, following deletion of two slides that related to timelines.

### **ACTION:**

- NSWMC to circulate Anthony Swirepik's presentation (excluding two timeline slides) to the working group.

## **5. Update on current projects**

The working group noted the updates on the Water Resources Map Project, Hunter River Water Quality Assessment Project, and Beneficial Reuse of Voids project.

## **6. MCA Water Accounting Framework - 2014 results**

Andrew Rode presented the results of the 2014 MCA Water Accounting Framework.

The working group made a number of suggestions for displaying and communicating the data, including:

- Providing contextual information to explain why the water discharge figure is low.
- Providing examples of what may constitute 'other' outputs.
- Making it clear that the accuracy was limited, e.g. avoiding decimal places for accuracy, and/or providing an accuracy range.
- Making a GIPA request to State Water for further data.
- Following up water use data with Arthur Burns.
- Requesting any possibly relevant AGL water information from Alison Crocker.

Anthony Swirepik advised that the Office of Water Science collected similar data to that presented and suggested that it might be possible to have it included where relevant.

### **ACTIONS:**

- NSWMC to contact Anthony Swirepik to discuss whether data from the Office of Water Science

- can be provided.
- NSWMC to action the suggestions made by the working group for displaying and communicating the data

## 7. DRE project - Predictive Mine Water Use Tool

Tony Linnane from DRE presented to the working group on the scoping of a predictive water use tool, to be used by the regulator during the planning phase of new mining projects to estimate the quantity of surface and groundwater a mine would require, based on a number of variables.

The working group discussed the proposal and agreed that although considerations by DRE to develop a predictive water use tool appears beneficial at face-value, doing so could present a number of issues of concern:

- The tool may be placed too early in the process (PEA stage) when the information it requires is unavailable.
- The tool may be unnecessary as water considerations are already taken into account by a mine in its feasibility and EIS stages.
- How it will fit within the existing approval process is unclear.
- There is a risk that the tool will create an additional approval hurdle similar to the Gateway process, with potential appeals and delays attached to it.
- The tool appears to be inconsistent with the general approach of the Integrated Mining Policy which aims to streamline approval processes.

The working group agreed that the DRE should consider these issues in greater detail, and that NSWMC may wish to raise the matter with Kylie Hargreaves from DRE for clarification.

### **ACTION:**

- NSWMC to seek clarification from Kylie Hargreaves regarding the Predictive Mine Water Use Tool.

## 8. Engagement of *theresource* and updating of UHMD communications plan

Greg advised that the UMHD Communications Plan is being reviewed and updated with a view to better promoting the work and profile of the UMHD. Mr Shane Davey and Mr Bob Mackie from *theresource* has been engaged by the NSW Minerals Council to prepare and undertake many of the actions identified in the Plan; and noted that the venue for the meeting, the UMHD Resource Centre, has been provided by *theresource*.

Shane provided an update on work undertaken to-date, including building stronger relationships with local print-media and radio stakeholders, so as to build 'a more visible face' for the UHMD in the local area. It was agreed that Shane and Bob will report back to the UMHD on progress made on a monthly basis.

The working group discussed the merits of, and expressed support for, the initiative, with John Drinan suggesting that the communication plan should seek to have an educative focus, so as to educate the community on mining-related issues as well as promote the UHMD. The working group agreed with this suggestion.

The working group noted the importance of keeping Shane and Bob apprised of UHMD-related developments, and acknowledged that input/feedback from the various JWG's would be of great assistance to the development of communications initiatives. The working group agreed that each JWG should include a standing item at the end of each meeting to consider and provide input/feedback to *theresource*,

## 9. Other Business

Andrew advised the working group that the review of the Hunter River Water Sharing Plan Regulation was released that morning.

The meeting closed at 11.50am.

**Actions arising from meeting on 6 August 2015  
UHMD Emissions and Health Joint Working Group Meeting**

Action	Responsibility	Status
<b>1. Welcome and Apologies</b>		
<b>2. Confirmation of Minutes of 8 May 2015</b>		
<b>3. Establishment of Joint Advisory Steering Committee</b>		
<b>4. Presentation from Office of Water Science - Bioregional Assessment Timeframe</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSWMC to circulate Anthony Swirepik's presentation (excluding two timeline slides) to the working group.</li> </ul>	NSWMC	Completed
<b>5. Update on Current Projects</b>		
<b>6. MCA Water Accounting Framework - 2014 results</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSWMC to contact Anthony Swirepik to discuss whether data from the Office of Water Science can be provided.</li> </ul>	NSWMC	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSWMC to action the suggestions made by the working group for displaying and communicating the MCA Water Accounting Framework data:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provide contextual information to explain why the water discharge figure is low.</li> <li>○ Provide examples of what may constitute 'other' outputs.</li> <li>○ Make it clear that the accuracy is limited.</li> <li>○ Make a GIPA request to State Water for further data.</li> <li>○ Follow up water use data with Arthur Burns.</li> <li>○ Request any possibly relevant AGL water information from Alison Crocker.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	NSWMC	Ongoing
<b>7. DRE project - Predictive Mine Water Use Tool</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSWMC to seek clarification from Kylie Hargreaves regarding the Predictive Mine Water Use Tool.</li> </ul>	NSWMC	Ongoing
<b>8. Engagement of the resource and Updating of UHMD Communications Plan</b>		