

**Water Joint Working Group Meeting – 22 April 2013
Actions Arising**

Action	Responsible	Progress
Confirmation of minutes and actions arising		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSWMC to amend Purpose in Terms of Reference to include the words “monitor progress, provide advice and receive feedback.” 	NSWMC	Completed
Update on MCA Water Accounting Framework Implementation		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mining operations to provide an update on what evaporative practices are currently used. 	All companies	Update to be provided in meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mining operations to provide an update at the next joint working group meeting on what water testing is undertaken prior to discharge. 	All companies	Update to be provided in meeting
Other business		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following should be added as an agenda for next joint working group meeting – develop a paper outlining key issues to raise with NSW Office of Water, and then invite them to present on these issues. 	NSWMC	A list of issues will be maintained as they are raised at meetings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bill Collins to provide the NSWMC with his water study proposal. 	Bill Collins	Completed

Joint Water Working Group Meeting – 22 April 2013 Actions Arising

MINUTES

Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Joint Water Working Group Meeting Singleton – Monday 22 April 2013

Present

David O'Brien (Chair)	Xstrata Coal
Peter Forbes	Anglo American Metallurgical Coal
Donna McLaughlin	BHP Billiton – Mt Arthur Coal
Greg Lamb	Bloomfield Collieries
Lesley Latter	Peabody Energy – Wambo Coal
Chris New	Rio Tinto – Coal & Allied Industries
Dan Byrne	Vale – Integra Coal Operations
Michael Moore	Yancoal – Ashton Coal Operations
Aled Hoggett	NSWFarmers
Adrian Brown	Hunter Central Rivers CMA
Rebekah Gomez-Fort	Department of Primary Industries
Wendy Bowman	NSW Mine Watch
Steve Clarkson	Singleton Council
Bill Collins	The University of Newcastle
Ron Fenwick	Wambo CCC - Singleton
Ken Bray	Hunter Valley Water Users' Association

In Attendance

Arti Brown	NSWMC
Claire Doherty	NSWMC

Apologies

David Frith	NSWMC
Arthur Burns	Hunter Valley Water Users' Association
James Benson	Anglo American Metallurgical Coal
Chris Knight	Muswellbrook Coal

1. Welcome and Apologies

Dave O'Brien welcomed attendees to the first meeting of the Joint Working Group – Water and noted the apologies.

2. Confirmation of minutes and actions arising

There was some discussion about the Purpose in the Terms of Reference of the Joint Working Group. It was agreed that they should be amended to better articulate the role of the group. Members of the joint working group agreed to the Terms of Reference.

ACTION

- NSWMC to amend Purpose in Terms of Reference to include the words “monitor progress, provide advice and receive feedback.”

3. Update on MCA Water Accounting Framework Implementation

Dave O'Brien provided brief presentation on the MCA Water Accounting Framework – how it works, what is involved in its implementation, and the long term benefits of implementing the Framework.

Each of the nine mining representatives provided an update on their progress in implementing Stage 1 of the Framework. All operators indicated that they are on track to meet the commitment of implementing Stage 1 by June 2013.

Members of the joint working group questioned what type of testing is undertaken by mining operations before water is discharged into the river. The members want to understand what is present in the discharge water and at what levels. Mining operators advised that water discharge is already tested, particularly PH and salinity levels.

After further discussion it was agreed that it would be useful to understand what heavy metals the discharge water is tested for by mining operations, as well as what else is tested for through the Hunter Salinity Trading Scheme.

ACTIONS

- Mining operations to provide an update at the next joint working group meeting on what water testing is undertaken prior to discharge.
- Mining operation to provide an update on what evaporative practices are currently used.

4. Federal Independent Expert Scientific Committee - Letter

Arti Brown provided an update on engagement to-date with the IESC. While engagement has been limited, more information has become available publicly about the proposed work of the IESC. The joint working group agreed that efforts should continue to be made to engage the IESC and provide them with a tour of the Hunter Region.

In relation to the draft letter, it was decided that:

- A list of UHMD members and stakeholders involved in the UHMD should be added to the letter
- That the Hunter should be offered as a case study opportunity, due to the scale of mining and conflicting land use.

Aled Hoggett advised that the mid-coast region of NSW has already been approached by the IESC as a potential area of research.

5. Other Business

Several stakeholders provided ideas for new projects that could be undertaken by the Industry Working Group:

- Heavy metals in water discharge (associated action above)
- How does water flow through the valley?
 - What trace metals can be found along the way
 - A systematic study of how things change
 - What do we have ('before' snapshot)
 - What do we have left ('after' snapshot)
- Formation of local land services currently underway – new projects may emerge through this process
- Expansion of aquifer mapping through Hunter Catchment Management Authority
 - NSW Office of Water needs to be developed and involved

ACTIONS

- The following should be added as an agenda for next joint working group meeting – develop a paper outlining key issues to raise with NSW Office of Water, and then invite them to present on these

issues.

- Bill Collins to provide the NSWMC with his water study proposal.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting date will be advised offline.

The meeting closed at 12.05pm.