



NSW MINERALS COUNCIL
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AGENDA UHMD

Joint Working Group Emissions and Health Meeting

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

Thursday 24 November 2016: 10.00pm - 1.00pm

Teleconference Details:
Dial: Dial in: +61283199443
Participant code: 33302985
Organizer code: 37237340

-
1. Welcome and apologies
 2. Minutes and actions of the previous meeting
 3. Update on current projects
 4. Presentation: Air quality forecasts for the Upper Hunter - Yvonne Scorgie, Office of Environment and Heritage, DRE & Emma Coombs, NSW Environment Protection Authority
 5. Update on weather forecasting project
 6. Clear Air for NSW consultation paper
 7. Update on UHMD communications initiatives
 8. 2016 UHMD Annual Forum
 9. Update on UHMD Perception Survey Project
 10. General business

DRAFT MINUTES

NSW Minerals Council
UHMD – Emissions & Health Joint Working Group
UMHD Resource Centre, Singleton Town Square Shopping Centre, Singleton

Wednesday 20 July 2016: 1.00pm - 3.00pm

In attendance

John Watson
Melinda Hale
John Drinan
Sarah Withell
Wendy Bowman
Adam Gilligan
Neville Hodgkinson
Andrew Rode
Greg Sullivan
Craig Milton

Glencore
Singleton Council
Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group
BHP Billiton
NSW Mine Watch
Environment Protection Authority
Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group
NSW Minerals Council
NSW Minerals Council
NSW Minerals Council

Apologies

John Hindmarsh
Julie Thomas
Gerard Gleeson
Digby Short
Bob Mackie

The Bloomfield Group
Muswellbrook Coal Company Limited
Rio Tinto
Ashton Coal
theresource

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed attendees and noted apologies.

2. Minutes and actions of the previous meeting

The minutes of 12 May 2016 were confirmed. Actions are listed on the following page.

3. Update on current projects

- Air Quality Forecast - This is a five year 2014-19 project. NSWMC have lined up Yvonne Scorgie and Matt Riley to present to the JWG at a future meeting. Adam Gilligan advised that the EPA is undertaking supplementary work looking at exceedences and will talk to this as well.
- Mine Dust & You Fact Sheet - Once an update is received from Pacific Environment, and with feedback from groups, the fact sheet will be passed on to the EPA and other government agencies. The NSWMC will aim to provide a poster.

4. Promotion of weather forecasting project

The working group discussed the weather forecasting video and p

Feedback was also provided from the group on the draft script, which included:

- There is no reference to 'miners' on an individual level - minimising dust is the responsibility of each person as well as the mine.
- The term 'very seriously' lends itself to the industry being reactionary. The script simply needs to say
- There needs to be a recognition of where the Dialogue has come from in terms of the industry journey.
- Managing dust and emissions is business as usual now as part of standard mining industry procedure.

A copy of a revised draft script is included at the end of the Minutes after the Action items.

Issues with the Synoptic Plan and Upper Hunter Regional Plan were also raised. The Synoptic Plan is a matter for Premier and Cabinet. The Upper Hunter Regional Plan now has a gap as a result of not addressing mining locations that the Synoptic Plan discussed and will need to be followed up with the Department of Planning.

Adam Gilligan advised that the EPA is developing a short video on Air Emissions in the Hunter that will provide information on all the contributing factors to Hunter Air Quality. The video will likely be an animated video similar to EPA's 'Air Quality in the Sydney Basin' video that can be found on their 'Air' page: <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/air/>

ACTIONS:

- **NSWMC to rewrite the draft script incorporating the working group feedback and distribute for final comments.**
- **NSWMC to share the EPA 'Air Quality in the Sydney Basin' video link (see above)**
- **NSWMC to follow up the progress of the Synoptic Plan and Upper Hunter Regional plan with DPC and the Dept of Planning respectively.**

5. Release of new health impact report about particulate matter in NSW

Andrew Rode summarised the key points in the report. The group felt the report was well received and is consistent with findings over the past years.

A 2014 workshop on diesel emissions was raised as being extremely helpful in demonstrating the relativity of where diesel emissions fit in the context of all Upper Hunter Valley activities. Prof Wayne Smith from NSW Health spoke at the workshop and would be a great contact to determine the feasibility of a study looking into the sources of diesel emissions.

ACTION:

- **NSWMC to invite Wayne Smith (NSW Health) to the next JWG Emissions and Health meeting in October to speak on a potential sources of diesel study. If Wayne is unavailable, seek Ben Scalley (NSW Health) as an alternative.**

6. Other business

The Chair noted the contributions of Andrew Rode to the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue and the JWG thanked Andrew for his years of service to the initiative and commitment to driving the many successful project the group has undertaken.

The Future of Agribusiness event held by Singleton Council and Singleton Business Chamber was discussed and members were encouraged to attend on 26 July.

Neville Hodgkinson tabled a document for the JWG regarding the Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group's (SSHEG) proposal for upcoming projects. The proposal was discussed in detail and will be distributed to JWG - Emissions and Health members for ongoing discussion.

ACTION:

- **NSWMC to distribute the SSHEG Proposal document to JWG - Emissions and Health members.**

Meeting closed at 2:30pm

**Actions arising from meeting on 20 July 2016
UHMD Emissions and Health Joint Working Group Meeting**

Action	Responsibility	Status
1. Welcome and Apologies		
2. Minutes and actions of the previous meeting		
3. Update on current projects		
4. Promotion of weather forecasting project		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSWMC to rewrite the draft script incorporating the working group feedback and distribute for final comments. 	NSWMC	Completed - see Agenda item 5 in meeting papers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSWMC to share the EPA 'Air Quality in the Sydney Basin' video link. 	NSWMC	Completed - included in minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSWMC to follow up the progress of the Synoptic Plan and Upper Hunter Regional plan with DPC and the Dept of Planning respectively. 	NSWMC	
5. Release of new health impact report about particulate matter in NSW		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSWMC to invite Wayne Smith (NSW Health) to the next JWG Emissions and Health meeting in October to speak on a potential sources of diesel study. If Wayne is unavailable, seek Ben Scalley (NSW Health) as an alternative. 	NSWMC	Complete - Wayne Smith unavailable and has left NSW Health, Ben Scalley engaged and may attend a future meeting.
6. Other business		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSWMC to distribute the SSHEG Proposal document to JWG - Emissions and Health members. 	NSWMC	Complete - included in minutes.

SSHEG Proposal for Mining Dialogue(MD)

“Emissions and Health Working Group”

The Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group Nov 2009 submission to NSW Government sought an “Independent Health Study” related to Open Cut Coal Mining and Coal Fired Power Stations and their Disease impact on Residents, especially Children.

Progress is outlined as follows:-

- ✓ 2009 Community calls for Independent Health Study
- ✓ 2010 NSW Expert Advisory Committee Study Models
 - Rural Areas have no Statistical Power
- ✓ 2011 **MD** ”Emissions & Health” workshop Priority
 - Health Risk Assessments
 - Cumulative Health Impacts
 - Particle Identification PM10, PM2.5, PM1.0
- ✓ 2015 SSHEG **MD** Review seeking Health Study Options P1-58
 - Four Health Study Options identified P15
- ✓ 2016 SSHEG Review World Health Organisations Insights P1-135
 - Minimisation of Air & Noise Health Impacts
 - World Health Assembly Roadmaps 2015 & 2016
 - Health Risk Assessment of air pollution Copenhagen
 - CAR Epidemiology Health Impact Report in NSW
- ✓ Proposed **MD** Projects 2016-2018
 - Health Study Trial using WHO Tools
 - Trial WHO Tools for Bulga- Broke & Singleton Hts
 - WHO Metrics for Air & Health Monitoring
 - Trial Air and Noise Minimisation
 - Rainwater Tanks Water Quality Study

**Joint Working Group - Emissions and Health
24 November 2016**

Agenda Item 3

UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS

Community Air Quality Forecast Alert

NSWMC wrote a letter to the Minister for the Environment the Hon Mark Speakman to follow up the government's commitment to this project. A response was recently received that referred to some work being undertaken by the Office of Environment and Heritage's (OEH's) Climate and Atmospheric Science Branch. NSWMC subsequently spoke with Dr Yvonne Scorgie from OEH and found that it has been progressing some work on air quality forecasts for both Sydney and the Upper Hunter, which will be discussed today.

Update of Mine Dust and You Fact Sheet

NSWMC has engaged Pacific Environment to draft suggested updates to the '*Mine Dust and You*' fact sheet, including:

- Updating the air quality standards table to reflect the new national air quality standards that came into effect in early 2016.
- Updating the section on potential health impacts of PM to reflect any new research since the fact sheet was first prepared.
- Including links to some recent air quality studies, such as the Upper Hunter Particle Characterisation Study and the particulate matter study commissioned by NSW Health and the EPA.
- General updates to the language used in the fact sheet to ensure it can be easily understood.

Pacific Environment is still working on a revised draft which will be shared with the JWG once complete.

Weather Forecasting Project

Refer to Agenda item.

FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

**Joint Working Group - Emissions and Health
24 November 2016**

Agenda Item 4

Presentation: Air Quality Forecasts for the Upper Hunter

Yvonne Scorgie from the Office of Environment and Heritage and Emma Coombs from the NSW Environment Protection Authority will speak with the JWG on progress made in delivering air quality forecasts in the Sydney and Upper Hunter regions.

Yvonne Scorgie PhD

Senior Team Leader, Climate and Atmospheric Research | Climate and Atmospheric Science Branch
Office of Environment and Heritage | Department of Planning and Environment

Yvonne Scorgie holds a PhD in atmospheric Science and works for the Office of Environment and Heritage in the role of Senior Team Leader of the Climate and Atmospheric Research Team. She is responsible for delivering collaborative climate and atmospheric science programs to meet NSW Government's needs.

Over the past 3 years Yvonne has project managed delivery of the NSW and ACT Regional Climate Modelling Project (NARClIM), the Eastern Seaboard Climate Change Initiative – East Coast Low (ESCCI-ECL) Program, the Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study and the Illawarra Air Quality Trend study.

Ongoing priority research projects being delivered by the Climate and Atmospheric Research Team include the Sydney Air Quality Study, the Enhancing Air Quality Forecasting in NSW Program, and the Broken Hill Environmental Lead Study.

Emma Coombs

Regional Operations Officer - Hunter, North Branch,
NSW Environment Protection Authority

Emma Coombs holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Newcastle. After completing her degree, Emma worked for 5 years as an ecologist with a leading environmental and bushfire consultancy in NSW.

Emma commenced work with the New South Wales Environment Protection Authority in 2008, undertaking reviews of Environmental Assessments and regulating licensed industries. Emma has been an integral part of the EPA's dust stop program which aims to ensure the application of best practice to particulate matter control in New South Wales coal mines.

This program has reduced dust emissions from NSW coal mines by 20,000 tonnes per year. Emma's current priorities include the continued implementation of the EPA's Dust Stop program, and the development of a tool to identify the weather conditions that give rise to high dust risk in the Hunter Valley.

Joint Working Group - Emissions and Health
24 November 2016

Agenda Item 5

PROMOTION OF WEATHER FORECASTING PROJECT

Issue

Theresource and the IWG has drafted a script for a short video that explains what happens at a mine site when adverse weather is forecast. It is envisaged that the video would be distributed through YouTube, the UHMD website and company sites.

Background

NSWMC and Theresource developed a draft script for the weather forecasting video, which is approximately two and a half minutes in length.

A video production company has been sourced and planning is underway to film the video early in 2017.

At the November 2016 JASC meeting the Committee suggested rewording a reference to the Hunter having 'the highest air quality standards in the world' to align better with the recently released Clean Air for NSW consultation paper which stated that 'NSW has air quality that is comparable with other Australian jurisdictions and is considered good by world standards'.

The full video transcript is contained below:

"The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue was established in 2011 to help mining companies and the local community to work together to address health, environmental and other concerns associated with mining.

Mining companies and government regulators take dust emissions from mining activities very seriously, as it can be an issue if not closely monitored and effectively controlled.

The mining industry works very hard to manage air quality each and every day. Minimising dust is a standard operating procedure at Upper Hunter mines and is the responsibility of all mine workers. Effective air quality management begins with the way a mine is designed, and continues into its operational management, right up to the end of its life through rehabilitation.

Each mine operates an extensive network of air quality monitoring stations in and around each mining operation that provide up to date data in real time. These monitoring networks are supported by the Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network; an industry funded, government managed real-time ambient air quality monitoring network.

One achievement of the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue is the consistent use of weather forecast information to reduce or avoid air quality impacts from Upper Hunter mines. By using weather forecast information, mines can plan ahead and make better informed decisions about managing air quality at their operations. If adverse conditions are forecast, measures are put in place to minimise the impact. Such measures include but are not limited to:

- *Postponing blasting to avoid unfavourable wind conditions;*
- *Closing elevated exposed working areas, and operating only at lower levels;*
- *Limiting traffic to main haul roads;*
- *Wetting dry areas by using water carts;*
- *Reducing vehicle speeds to minimise wheel generated dust; and if necessary,*
- *Ceasing operations until conditions improve.*

The Upper Hunter's mines are committed to minimising impacts on the Hunter community. These initiatives contribute to the region having air quality that is comparable with other Australian jurisdictions and is considered good by world standards.

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue - Mining and Community Working Together. To find out more, visit miningdialogue.com.au

FOR INFORMATION

UHMD Joint Working Group - Emissions and Health
24 November 2016

Agenda Item 6

CLEAN AIR FOR NSW CONSULTATION PAPER

Issue

The NSW Government has released the Clean Air for NSW Consultation Paper, which includes several initiatives relevant to the Upper Hunter. Of particular relevance to the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue is the proposal to develop an air quality forecasting system for the Upper Hunter, which is an issue that the dialogue has jointly advocated for over the last few years.

Background

The *Clean Air for NSW* Consultation Paper outlines a series of potential actions to improve air quality in NSW over the next 10 years. Submissions are due on 20 January 2017 and the full paper can be downloaded here: <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/air/clean-air-nsw.htm>

The Consultation Paper provides some analysis of air quality issues in NSW and a range of priorities to reduce emissions and population exposure. The air quality analysis is generally limited to an area known as the Greater Metropolitan Region, which extends from Wollongong in the south, to Muswellbrook in the north, to Lithgow in the west. There is little discussion of air quality issues outside this region.

Some of the identified priorities relevant to the Upper Hunter include:

- Expand the scope and enhance the accuracy of air quality forecasting capabilities in NSW (including an air quality forecast for the Upper Hunter) - The industry has been working with Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue to get a forecast for the Upper Hunter. It is positive to see that advocacy from the Dialogue has led to this documented commitment by the NSW Government.
- There are several potential actions relating to mining and power generation, including strengthening the rigour of the rehabilitation framework for mining projects; responding to the Chief Scientist's recommended monitoring program for the rail corridor; and minimising emissions from power stations.
- Reducing emissions from non-road diesel equipment used in construction, mining, shipping and rail activities.
- Reducing emissions from domestic woodheaters through more stringent emissions standards and education, training and woodheater replacement programs.

The Government proposes to hold a NSW Clean Air Summit in six months' time before finalising the plan later in 2017.

NSWMC is preparing a submission, which will strongly support the proposed air quality forecast for the Upper Hunter.

Recommendation:

The JWG discuss the Clean Air for NSW paper and consider the proposed actions and how they relate to UHMD activities.

FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

**UHMD Joint Working Group - Emissions and Health
24 November 2016**

Agenda Item 7

UPDATE ON COMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVES

The past months have been active for the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue in terms of delivering communications as per the Communications Plan and the months ahead will also be productive with positive opportunities being finalised.

The UHMD communications activities have focused on its key strategies and tactics consistent with the Communications Plan. Since the last meeting of the Joint Working Groups in July, the Dialogue has been actively engaged in a number of community consultation opportunities.

Completed events and activities:

- *HSEC Conference:* The Dialogue was promoted via a display at the NSW Mining HSEC Conference in August. The display as part of the trade show attracted favourable attention from fellow exhibitors and conference attendees alike.
- *Industry promotion:* A UHMD summary poster has been provided to UHMD company representatives to hang in crib rooms, foyers, etc, to provide basic awareness of the UHMD to mining employees. The posters also point to the UHMD website for more detailed information.
- *Video updated:* A new video featuring the Dialogue was launched at the NSW Mining HSEC Conference on August; the video is an update of the Dialogue's messaging and has the potential to be distributed via local websites and through social media.
- *Singleton Show:* The Dialogue was on display at the Singleton Show in September. The UHMD marquee and posters formed a backdrop for the Dialogue to engage with the community. A further 22 surveys were completed and many more show patrons engaged with staff and volunteers manning the display.

Planned activities:

- *Media plans:* The Dialogue has also been actively promoting projects with the media; an article in The Land newspaper and a tour of activities with a Newcastle Herald journalist are being finalised. Articles and photos have also been provided for the new industry newspaper - @thecoalface.
- *Upcoming events:* The Dialogue will continue to be promoted through industry and community events. The proposed annual calendar of events includes:

2017 COMMUNITY EVENTS		
Show / Event	Dates	Website
Maitland Show	Fri 17th to Sun 19th February 2017	Link
Cessnock Show	Fri 24th to Sat 25th February 2017	Email
Muswellbrook (Upper Hunter) Show	Fri 31st March to Sat 1st April 2017	Link
Tom Farrell Institute Rehab Conference	Date TBC - Late March/early April 2017	Link
Total Field Days	Fri 5th, Sat 6th and Sun 7th May 2017	Link

NSWMC HSEC Conference	Mon 14th - Wed 16th August 2017	Link
Broke Vintage Fair 2017	Sun 10th September 2017	Link TBC
Singleton Show 2017	Fri 22nd to Sat 23rd September 2017	Link

SCHOOL BUS TOURS

Schools in the Upper Hunter Singleton/Muswellbrook catchment have been approached for expressions of interest for a regular mine tour program involving Year 5 or 6 and Year 9 or 10 students. The bus tour proposal is included below in more detail.

The aim of this program is to take a systematic approach to educating school children about the importance and value of mining with every student visiting a mine facility twice within their 12 years of secondary study. Interest has been strong with most schools indicating they would like to be involved.

If all schools participate the program would involve up to 18 schools with a catchment of about 1400 students in Yrs 5 and 6 and Yrs 9 and 10 in any given year.

According to information provided by the schools, the breakdown of students by year is:

- Year 5 – 296 students ((120 Muswellbrook area; 176 Singleton) *note: some schools have combined Yrs 5 /6
- Year 6 – 209 students (62 Muswellbrook: 147 Singleton)
- Year 9 – 460 students (240 Muswellbrook, 220 Singleton) *some schools have combined Yrs 9 /10
- Year 10 – 440 students (150 Muswellbrook, 290 Singleton)

If the program focused on a combination of Yrs 5 /9 we would be catering for about 760 students while a pairing of Yrs 6 /10 would see some 650 students involved.

Final details will vary depending on which industry partners are involved and which sites are toured by which schools, but assuming all seven companies (Glencore, Muswellbrook Coal Company, Coal & Allied, BHP Billiton, Bloomfield Group, Peabody Energy and Ashton Coal) participate this would see up to 15 tours (or roughly two per company) with the Yrs 5 / 9 grouping and 13 tours (again, two per partner) with the Yrs 6/10 combination. It is assumed that each tour involves one full bus (50 passengers). Any mine tours associated with community events (e.g. Singleton Show) would of course be additional to these tours.

The Industry Steering Committee discussed the proposal at its teleconference on 7 September. There was in-principle support from members to proceed with the initiative, subject to further analysis being undertaken by NSWMC and theresource to determine the best fit and resourcing required to undertake such activities. The ISC recommended that NSWMC follow up with the UHMD companies not present to seek their support and any other feedback regarding the proposal. Furthermore, NSWMC is to develop a matrix to plot the schools and mines to determine suitable matches and seek further guidance from mines already undertaking tours.

The UHMD has been approached by a Muswellbrook Primary School for a mine tour this term for Stage 3 Years 5 and 6 students who have a unit to complete on the Coal Industry as part of their Science studies. While details are still to be confirmed, the UHMD hopes to use the proposed tour as a Pilot Project for the overall School Bus Tours Program including working with the school to develop materials and information

to suit its curriculum.

FOR INFORMATION

**UHMD Joint Working Group - Emissions and Health
24 November 2016**

Agenda Item 8

2016 UHMD ANNUAL FORUM

Issue

The UHMD Annual Forum is scheduled for 6 December 2016. Feedback is requested from the JWG on the draft agenda.

Background

Each year the UHMD holds an Annual Forum to review the year's achievements, discuss topical issues and shape the future work of the Dialogue.

Annexure 1 is the Draft Agenda for the 2016 Annual Forum.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the JWG review the draft agenda and provide feedback.

2016 UHMD Forum Agenda

Where	Muswellbrook Race Club – Skellatar Park/15 Racecourse Rd, Muswellbrook NSW 2333	
When	Tuesday 6 December 2016, 8.30 for 9am to 3.00pm	
Event Run Sheet		
Time	Topic	Presenter
8:30am	Arrival and networking. Coffee, tea, muffins available	
8.55am	Welcome	Di Sneddon, Facilitator
9:00am	Year in review. Focus on events/activities in the past year (20 mins)	Greg Sullivan, NSW Minerals Council
9:20am	Future priorities of UHMD (10 mins)	David O'Brien, Joint Advisory Steering Committee Chair
9:30am	Keynote Address (25 mins)	Prof. Richard Bush, International Centre for Balanced Land Use, The University of Newcastle
9:55am	Hunter regional plan	Stephen Barry, Department of Planning and Environment
10:20am	Panel discussion - Post mining use of voids (40 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Richard Bush, International Centre for Balanced Land Use, The University of Newcastle • Mike Kelly, Muswellbrook Chamber President • John Richards, UHMD Chair • Wayne Bedggood, Mayor, Upper Hunter Shire Council • Michael Johnsen, Upper Hunter MP • Gill Eason, Community member, JASC member • Stephen Barry, Department of Planning and Environment
11:00am	Break - Morning Tea (20 mins) (Students will engage in a small group discussion with a facilitator between 11:20am and 12:50pm)	
11:20am	Presentation: Estimating rehabilitation bonds (30 mins)	Dr David Blackmore, Division of Resources and Energy
11:50pm	Case study: Calculating rehabilitation costs (30 mins)	Dean Fletcher, SLR Consulting
12:20pm	Presentation: Survey results (30 mins)	Ruth McLeod, Hunter Research Foundation
12:50 pm	Lunch (40 mins)	
1:30 pm	Working Group Updates (10 mins each)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David O'Brien, JWG - Water Chair • John Watson, JWG - Emissions & Health Chair • Bill Baxter, JWG - Land Management Chair
2.00 pm	Small group discussion forum - Broader Future Plans for UHMD (30 mins)	In table groups with facilitator at each table
2.30pm	Plenary Discussion - Broader Future Plans for the UHMD (30 mins)	Di Sneddon, Facilitator
2.55pm	Summary and wrap up	John Richards, UHMD Chair
3.00pm	Forum Close	

**UHMD Joint Working Group - Emissions and Health
24 November 2016**

Agenda Item 9

Update on UHMD Perception Survey Project

Issue

NSWMC has engaged the services of the Hunter Research Foundation (HRF) to conduct an interview based survey of current and past participants in the UHMD. Interviews have now been completed and the Hunter Research Foundation has begun evaluating the responses.

Background

Following discussion at both the Industry Steering Committee in April 2016 and the Joint Advisory Steering Committee in June 2016, the possibility of undertaking a fresh survey of UHMD participant perceptions and sentiment was canvassed with the UHMD Executive Oversight Committee.

The Executive Oversight Committee gave approval for a qualitative survey to be undertaken within a budget of \$25,000. The decision on any larger scale quantitative surveying was deferred until after the results of the qualitative survey are available.

NSWMC undertook some initial scoping work to assess what would be involved in a more detailed resurvey of UHMD participants and other stakeholders. The methodology for the survey undertaken in 2010 involved detailed interviews conducted with approximately 90 stakeholders representing a cross-section of the community and associated stakeholder groups. The interviews gathered both quantitative and qualitative data. It is not considered that repeating the original methodology exactly would be either feasible or necessary.

NSWMC sought proposals from suitably experienced providers to conduct qualitative research. Proposals were received from the Melbourne based Australian Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility (ACCSR) and the Hunter Research Foundation (HRF). The proposals were somewhat similar with HRF substantially less expensive. HRF are a well-respected local Hunter entity with substantial experience in conducting this form of work. The methodology being used for the 2016 perception survey involved 40 interviews of approximately 20-30 minutes duration. The interviews contained some quantitative questions to enable comparison of responses. The interviewees were drawn from community, industry and other stakeholders (including state and local government).

As well as providing valuable information on UHMD participant perception and sentiment, the survey is expected to generate information that will inform the need and scope for any additional more quantitative style survey work that may later be required.

Interviews began in early September and were completed by mid October.

Results of the survey will be presented to all stakeholders at the 2016 UHMD Annual Forum by Dr Ruth McLeod of the Hunter Research Foundation.

There may be a potential further activity for the UHMD to undertake a more statistically representative survey of the wider Upper Hunter Community to seek their perceptions of the Dialogue and mining more generally.

FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION