

AGENDA
Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue
Joint Environment Working Group

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

Wednesday 26 September 2018: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Local dial in: 02 8319 9443

Organizer code: 376 453 97 / Participant code: 328 825 07

Agenda items		Time
1.	Welcome and Apologies	5 mins
2.	Minutes and actions of the previous meeting	5 mins
3.	Land Management: Rehabilitation and Mine Closure Update	10 mins
4.	Land Management: Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments 2017 (Att)	10 mins
5.	Land Management: Other projects update (Att)	5 mins
6.	Water: Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme (HRSTS) Study	15 mins
7.	Water: Water Accounting Framework 2017 (Att)	10 mins
8.	Water: Other projects update	5 mins
	Mid meeting break - 10.00 am	10 mins
9.	Joint content: Dialogue Realignment Update	10 mins
10.	Joint content: Working Group Terms of Reference and Membership	10 mins
11.	Joint content: 2018 Forum Planning	30 mins
12.	Joint content: Synoptic Plan Review Update	15 mins
13.	Joint content: Update on Communications Activities (Att)	10 mins
	Break - 11.25 pm	10 mins
14.	Emissions & Health: Dust Risk Forecasting Scheme	10 mins
15.	Emissions & Health: Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network Update (Att)	10 mins
16.	Emissions & Health: Upper Hunter Air Quality Fact Sheets (Att)	5 mins
17.	Emissions & Health: Other projects update (Att)	5 mins
	Working Lunch - approx. 12:00 pm	
18.	Presentation: Cate Fisher - New project proposal on mine rehabilitation (Att)	20 mins
19.	Other Business / Next Meeting / Close (approx. 12:30 pm)	10 mins

**UHMD Joint Environment Working Group
26 September 2018**

Agenda Item 2

MINUTES AND ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

**Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue
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**

Wednesday 27 June 2018: 10.00 am- 12.10 pm

Attending

Julie Thomas (Chair)	Muswellbrook Coal
Bill Baxter	Yancoal
Bob Mackie	theresource
Catherine Lewis	Resources Regulator
Di Sneddon	Community individual (presentation only)
Cameron Archer	Tom Farrell Institute
Craig Milton	NSW Minerals Council
Glenda Briggs	NSW Department of Primary Industries
James Barben	NSW Minerals Council
John Campbell	Bengalla Mining Company
Ken Bray	Hunter Valley Water Users Association
Mark Scandrett	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Mark Slade	Community individual
Matt Parkinson	AGL Bayswater Power Station
Neil Griffiths	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Ron Fenwick	Wambo CCC / Community Individual

Guests

Steve Barry	NSW Department of Planning and Environment
Hamish Aiken	NSW Department of Planning and Environment

Apologies

Chris Knight	The Bloomfield Group
Chris Quinn	The Bloomfield Group
Craig White	Bengalla Mining Company
Jim Morgan	Wybong Action Group / NSW Farmers' Association
Jo Powells	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Jonathan Deacon	BHP
Karen Marler	NSW Environment Protection Authority
Merri Bartlett	Peabody Energy
Monique Meyer	Resources Regulator
Ngaire Baker	Mount Pleasant Operation
Nigel Charnock	Glencore
Paul Amidy	Glencore
Sean Constable	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Simon Turpin	Local Land Services
Tim Roberts	Tom Farrell Institute
Wendy Bowman	NSW Mine Watch

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed all attendees. Mr. Barben thanked the Chair for accepting the Chairing duties and thanked Mr. Baxter for his commitments as Chair in previous years.

2. Minutes and actions of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted. Mr. Barben provided a summary of the outstanding actions, noting that several documents had been circulated to follow up actions.

3. Rehab Reform Program

Mr. Barben provided a summary of the intent of the Rehabilitation Reform Program and the new components this would involve, and that this would be expected to be released in the coming weeks.

Ms. Lewis noted this would now be referred to as the Operational Rehabilitation Reforms given they are focused on post-approvals. The change in name has been to avoid confusion with the DPE policy work around rehabilitation that is more focused on the planning and assessment phase.

Ms. Lewis noted that the consultation period for the reforms will extend to a 12-week period, which is double the initial 6-week period. The Resources Regulator will then be looking at the feedback received and incorporate revisions for finalisation and implementation of the reforms and the rehabilitation GIS portal in January 2019.

Mr. Barben noted that the recent DPE restructure has seen the ESU back within the Resources Regulator (like 2014 arrangements) and separated from the Titles unit within DRG. Inspectors would be reporting to Matt Newton as Director, Compliance Operations and Anthony Keon, Resources Regulator Chief Regulator, with roles likely to be split between compliance and approvals.

Mr. Baxter queried whether mining operations plans will go through to new departments. Ms. Lewis advised the department will operate as business as usual for the time being and recommended that sites contact their current key contact. In future it will go through titles portals, while detailed assessments will be referred to the Resources Regulator. A decision maker that sits within titles will make the final decisions, however these details are still to be finalised.

Mr. Barben noted the government is planning to respond to submissions received from the Improving Mine Rehabilitation discussion paper.

4. Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments 2017

Mr. Milton provided a brief overview of the key outcomes from the 2017 reporting period for the annual Dialogue rehabilitation project, noting that these are undergoing final assessment. Members noted that it would be good to provide contextual information regarding Mount Pleasant Operation's impact on the overall results, given it is in its initial stages and included in the figures for the first time, as well as highlighting the amount of biodiversity offsets and agricultural land owned by mining companies.

5. Update on current land management projects

Mr. Griffiths noted that there has been limited progress made in the new ACARP project, with administrative delays and environmental issues such as drought preventing any field work being undertaken. Mr. Griffiths also noted there has been limited contact with companies, and the provision of data has been slow from sites to date. Mr. Griffiths is currently reviewing the project and will seek to vary the timing of the project at an upcoming ACARP meeting and to enable this to push back six months. Approval will be needed for a formal contract variation. JWG members agreed this made sense given the weather issues. Mr. Baxter noted that he would follow this up as an industry monitor.

6. DPE Presentation

Mr. Barry and Mr. Aiken provided a detailed overview of their mine rehabilitation visualisation tool. The

tool has been developed as a community awareness tool for rehabilitation and to give everyone a sense of final landforms. Given the size of the data, there are challenges to providing this to the public, however the intention is that this will sit as a web resource. It is currently in draft form, but DPE is looking to get community involved and testing the resource to provide feedback on improvements needed.

The demonstration prompted a range of comments from members, including:

- Inserting dates into the final landforms displayed. DPE explained these have been purposely left as arbitrary dates at the moment, as they are all just final current approvals. DPE noted these will change as modifications arise, however it is the government's intention to make these visible as this project progresses. DPE noted dates could be provided via a speech bubble, or a sliding representation at different stages, however this would increase the data-heavy nature of the resource.
- Suggestion that this data might be showcased at a DPE community environment office in the Upper Hunter.
- Suggestion for better colour definition around cropping and woodland data. DPE noted that they still need to do a bit of editing work around boundary displays.
- Query as to whether there is any ability to drill down into detail on these areas or to look at two boundaries at once? DPE advised they aren't looking to provide a full spatial data set but provide a visual representation of the final landforms.
- Members discussed water bodies being displayed. DPE noted there are complexities displaying these, however they're filled to the equilibrium level that sites have in their assessments.
- Query regarding a pre-mining view of sites. DPE advised this is something that can be explored and would probably be more possible with recent mines.
- Query regarding updating data on a yearly basis. DPE advised that Truescape has said this is possible as yearly updated layers, however there needs to be a level of demand and funding to maintain this.
- Suggestion to allow searching for views of sites from specific locations. DPE noted that they could provide drive-through looks of operations.
- Suggestion that this is something that the Dialogue could take to regional shows to demonstrate to community members.
- Suggestion for a scale ruler to better show the size of these areas.
- Suggestion to include a layer of the original Synoptic Plan. DPE noted that they need to start feeding this data into the Regional Plan.

Mr. Barry outlined the next steps for the project, noting that industry is currently checking how their data is displayed. Once this data is returned, DPE will be able to make this more broadly available to provide for user acceptance testing. Members discussed the potential to make this available at CCC meetings.

Mr. Archer advised that there are misconceptions in the community as to the quality of the land in the Upper Hunter before mining. In many cases it was very rundown agricultural land, which may well be improved through mine rehabilitation. Mr. Archer suggested seeking data from the Lands Department on the Hunter land from the 1950's or so to determine what the productivity of the land was to get a better idea of intensive farming. This imagery should be available and DPE can look to work this in.

Ms. Briggs noted the Department of Industry is progressing some strategic planning looking at the availability of water taking into account the CSIRO study and will be seeking to undertake targeted consultation shortly around September 2018. The Government is currently considering this and is expected to sign off shortly. Mr. Barben noted that the Dialogue has sought an update from Eddie Harris at DPI Water on these reforms. Ms. Briggs noted that she would be meeting shortly and could raise that the Dialogue is looking to receive an update.

Mr. Barry also provided an update on the Improving Mine Rehabilitation discussion paper and broader DPE policy work in this area. DPE are currently working through the response to get more of a coherent agenda for the government regarding mine rehabilitation. As a result of the discussion paper, DPE will be able to develop a high-level policy framework, with an Action Plan many of which are focused on the Hunter, and identify information gaps, which will bring together broader work DPE and DRG has done. DPE do not intend to go back to stakeholders with an additional paper and will seek to meet with key stakeholders to discuss how they've considered their feedback.

ACTION:

- **Dialogue secretariat to liaise with Ms. Briggs regarding securing a presentation on DPI**

Water's 'water availability' projects.

7. Strategic Discussion on Dialogue Objectives

Mr. Barben provided an overview of the early 2018 strategic discussion, noting a reduction in emerging environment issues and a move towards future planning issues, as well as communication with stakeholders. The consolidation of the Joint Working Groups into a single Joint Environment Working will enable the Dialogue to discuss this information in a more efficient manner and reduce duplication of content and personnel.

Mr. Barben provided an overview of the intent of the Communications Working Group and Economics and Social Development Working Groups. It was noted the economics group would be looking at how to better utilise buffer land, and seek strategic land use and economic diversification opportunities, and would seek to link in with business chambers and council representatives working in this area to build a better relationship with industry and business. Mr. Barben advised that if any members wish to be involved, they should contact the Dialogue secretariat.

Mr. Archer suggested Dialogue consider contacting Trevor John at Regional Development Australia (RDA) Hunter, as well as University of Newcastle's Richard Bush. Given the RDA is a federal body, it would be good to feed into their processes and help influence work for the Hunter down the track.

Mr. Barben noted some recent discussions about opportunities in the Hunter region with solar farms, poultry relocation from South Australia to Hunter. These opportunities will ultimately depend on who is willing to invest and what land is available.

Mr. Barben noted the Statement of Objectives that was produced following JASC recommendations, which captures the key purpose and objectives of the Dialogue at this current time and will be updated as needed in future. Ms. Briggs noted the JASC appears to be working well.

8. Synoptic Plan Update

Mr. Barben provided an update on the developments with the Synoptic Plan. A new workshop would be held shortly, and all those included last year would be automatically captured in the 2018 workshop.

9. Update on communications activities

Mr. Mackie provided an update on the communications activities, especially regarding the Hunter Coal Festival and Tocal days, which provided good engagement opportunities for the Dialogue. Members noted that the school mine tours were progressing well.

10. Hunter River Water Quality Study

Mr. Barben noted that discussions with EPA are still underway to determine the approach to the next steps in the study. Members discussed when the initial report will be finalised, and Mr. Barben explained that the Steering Committee is seeking to determine an approach to addressing identified issues before publishing.

Mr. Archer advised that there has been considerable discussion on water quality recently and noted that the results of this report were pleasing and would be great to share with academics when possible. Mr. Bray noted that the salinity in the river has improved over years through the scheme. Mr. Barben noted that there have also been calls to copy this assessment in parts of Queensland.

Members noted that the Dialogue is awaiting feedback from the EPA to decide, and we would seek to have a finalised position in the next couple of months with a view to complete the additional study by the end of the year. The EPA have been very constructive and supportive of the project to date, so it is hoped this approach will continue.

Mr. Bray advised that he would like to see industry testing their sites on a regular annual basis to provide ongoing continuous data as this regular collection of data would help overcome negative public perceptions of poor water quality.

11. Bioregional Assessments

Mr. Milton provided a brief update on the bioregional assessments recently released.

12. Current land management and water projects

Mr. Milton provided an update on the Water Accounting Framework reporting project, noting that all data has been collected and the Dialogue is clarifying some operational efficiency data and groundwater splits. Contextual information will be provided in early July, so the final results will be known shortly and discussed at the September meeting.

Mr. Milton advised of the water reform action plan, noting that extensive consultation had recently been completed. Mr. Bray provided an update noting that this plan is locked into the federal work through the Murray Darling Basin Plan and is very compliance-focused, given over 80 people have been employed to manage the reforms. Mr. Bray expressed concern for the long-term future, and that the valley needs to be mindful of when Liddell goes offline, given their high security water licences. Mr. Bray noted the cost recovery for relinquished assets would be considerable and that industry was becoming more aware of their water constraints and responsibilities.

Mr. Parkinson advised that AGL was doing modelling on what will happen when Liddell switches off and expect more information to come out of this in the future.

13. General Dialogue matters

No general Dialogue business.

14. Next Meeting / Close

The Chair noted the next JWG meeting, noting this would be the first meeting for the combined Environment working group. Mr. Barben advised this would be held like the current merged Land Management and Water meeting, with distinct sections covering all environmental issues.

The meeting closed at 12:10 pm

Actions arising from meeting UHMD Land Management and Water Joint Working Group Meeting

Action	Responsibility	Status
DPI Water Availability Projects		
Dialogue secretariat to liaise with Ms. Briggs regarding securing a presentation on DPI Water's 'water availability' projects.	Dialogue secretariat	In progress - DPI seeking a meeting with Upper Hunter stakeholders upon release of report.

DRAFT MINUTES

Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue 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**

Wednesday 27 June 2018: 2.00 pm to 2:35 pm

In attendance:

John Watson (Chair)	Glencore
Bob Mackie	theresource
Craig Milton	NSW Minerals Council
James Barben	NSW Minerals Council
John Campbell	Bengalla Mining Company
Julie Thomas	Muswellbrook Coal
Matthew Parkinson	AGL
Sarah Roberts	Singleton Council

Apology

Chris Knight	The Bloomfield Group
Genelle Scotts	Bengalla Mining Company
Karen Marler	NSW Environment Protection Authority
Mark Scandrett	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Maryann Crawford	Singleton Council
Neville Hodkinson	Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group
Ngaire Baker	Mount Pleasant Operation
Sarah Withell	BHP
Wendy Bowman	NSW Mine Watch

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed attendees and noted apologies. Members discussed that there are varying indications from the community regarding increasing air quality that doesn't match a declining level of community interest in Dialogue meeting attendance or engagement on air quality issues.

2. Minutes and actions of the previous meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted. Mr. Barben provided a brief update on outstanding action items, noting the heritage issue raised by Mr. Hodkinson was discussed at the Joint Advisory Steering Committee, where the JASC recommended a structured format be provided to enable the Dialogue to consider the proposal in more detail. The Chair advised that the remit of the working group has historically tended to be more focused on health issues arising from emissions, rather than from a mental health perspective, and this request might best be considered through another Dialogue Working Group, however would await further advice from Dr. Hodkinson.

3. Strategic Discussion on Dialogue Objectives

The Working Group noted the update provided in the papers.

4. Upper Hunter Air Quality Education Fact Sheets

Mr. Milton provided an update on the air quality education fact sheets, which the working group noted.

5. Update on NSW Government Air Quality Initiatives

Mr. Barben provided an update on key NSW government initiatives. Mr. Barben noted that industry recently met with the EPA and were advised that the government is working in the background on Clean Air, Non-road diesel, and Load-based licencing, and it is expected that proposals on these issues would come back to industry later this year.

The North West Air Quality Monitoring Network is now operational. The Armidale station has been up and running as of April/May 2018, which has delivered some poor results so far.

6. Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network Update

Mr. Watson provided an overview of the recent UHAQMN results, noting these are usually provided one season behind from when they really should be. However, the recent results are similar to past results, albeit slightly elevated given the dry conditions.

The overall performance of industry is better than the 2013 period, which was the basis for the EPA's forecast work. Mr. Watson noted that there was discussion at a recent UHAQMN meeting on the forecast process, potential PRP's and tonnes moved data. EPA has advised that they are yet to announce how they will progress their forecasting project at this stage, as they are keen to improve accuracy before implementing.

Another issue that arose regarded the reporting of exceedances as per approvals. The definition of an 'extraordinary event' was also raised and members asked OEH how this should be defined. While industry must report exceedances immediately, it may take up to two weeks to determine whether this was an extraordinary event. Mr. Watson advised that Mitch Bennett recently convened a committee meeting with industry, OEH and DPE to create a framework assessment for determining these extraordinary events.

7. Update on communication activities

Mr. Mackie's update on communication activities was noted.

8. Update on current Dialogue projects

Mr. Barben noted recent discussions with Mark Gifford of the EPA, and the government's plan to leverage off Rural Fire Service air quality modelling, that shows similar levels of forecasting that OEH had developed. The RFS modelling is used to predict air quality as a result of backburning operations.

9. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

10. Next Meeting / Meeting Close

The Working Group noted that this is the last separate meeting of the Working Group, and that the emissions and health focus can be easily integrated into the one Environment meeting.

Mr. Barben noted that the Dialogue secretariat would seek updates from the EPA and OEH further in the year regarding these government initiatives.

Mr. Watson noted the lack of community involvement in air quality may be because people are interested and want to help, but don't know what they can offer or how to articulate their concerns. The

controls are managed at a site level rather than any individual buy-in. Mr. Barben noted that the concerns over air quality have also shifted to communications-themed projects.

Members discussed when would be the best time to host meetings and agreed that morning meetings seem to suit more people and that 9:00 am may provide better attendance than meetings over the lunch period. Mr. Milton noted that there is significant consolidation work to bring these two groups together under the Environment Working Group, so there is an opportunity to survey members on their preferences.

Meeting closed at 2:35 pm

No actions created.

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Agenda Item 3

REHABILITATION AND MINE CLOSURE UPDATE

Issue

There are several initiatives currently progressing across industry and the NSW government related to mine rehabilitation and future land use. See below for updates on specific projects and initiatives.

Background

Operational Rehabilitation Reforms

Formerly referred to as the Rehabilitation Reform Program, this project has now been renamed as to not be confused with the rehabilitation policy development that DPE are undertaking. These reforms have now been released on the Resources Regulator website and feedback is sought from interested parties by 31 October 2018. The Reforms include:

- Proposed Standard Mining Lease Conditions - The Conditions are the key regulatory tool covering Environmental Management, Protection and Rehabilitation, and the new document has taken key concepts from the MOP and elevated them into the proposed conditions.
- Four new Codes of Practice - The Codes cover Rehabilitation Management Plans for both Large and Small Mines, and the Annual Rehabilitation Report and Forward Program for both Large and Small Mines.
- Five new Guidelines - These cover Rehabilitation Risk Assessments, Rehabilitation Records, Rehabilitation Controls, and Rehabilitation GIS Portal and Guidance Material.

Please see the following link for more information regarding the reforms.

<https://www.resourcesandgeoscience.nsw.gov.au/regulation/environment/operationalrehabilitationcompliance-and-reporting-reforms>

NSW Government Improving Mine Rehabilitation Discussion Paper

The Department of Planning and Environment is yet to publicly respond to any submissions received through the consultation. The discussion paper proposed integrating rehabilitation requirements into the assessment and operational phases of mining and developing policies for how rehabilitation should be regulated and how final voids should be managed.

At the 2018 NSW Mining HSEC Conference, DPE representatives advised that the department was yet to make any decisions on how to proceed, noting that there were a varied mix of responses, of which several commented specifically on the future of voids in the Upper Hunter, despite the discussion paper not explicitly seeking feedback on the region.

Senate Committee Inquiry into mine rehabilitation

The Senate Committee inquiry into the 'Rehabilitation of mining and resources projects as it relates to Commonwealth responsibilities' was reopened in March 2018 following an amendment to the terms of reference, with dozens of additional submissions received. The inquiry has recently granted the Committee a further extension of time to report until 18 October 2018. The Committee inspected sites across the Upper Hunter throughout the inquiry to date.

Mine Rehabilitation Booklet

The UHMD secretariat continues to seek DPE's decision on whether to continue support for the mine rehabilitation booklet, which is still undergoing review by the Resources Regulator.

DPC Economic Diversification project

No update.

Recommendation:

- **JEWG members note the rehabilitation-focused activities underway.**

FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

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Agenda Item 4

REHABILITATION PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS PROJECT UPDATE

Issue

The Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments project remains a key annual Dialogue activity. It is important that this project be completed in a timely fashion.

Background

The Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments project remains a key annual Dialogue activity. It is important that this project be completed in a timely fashion. All data has now been collected from industry, analysed by the Dialogue secretariat, and published on the Dialogue website: <http://www.nswmining.com.au/dialogue/latest-projects/land-management/rehabilitation-principles-and-commitments>.

The Dialogue is progressing an annual rehabilitation reporting project infographic to communicate not only the 2017 results, but restate the principles, and provide some context behind the figures reported in terms of other land usage across the Hunter. Given this project commenced in 2012, there is also opportunity to provide some analysis of the key trends that have occurred across the past six years. These include a noticeable increase in biodiversity offsets and a decline in managed agricultural land.

The Industry Environment Working Group members have recently reviewed the document and recommended that additional contextual information regarding the land used in residential/town centre areas, as well as national parks be sought for inclusion in the document. This work is currently in progress.

Please find a draft infographic for 2017 **attached** for comment. Please note that this is still a concept document, and based on feedback from the JEWG, this will proceed to design phase and completion.

Recommendation

- **The Dialogue encourages JEWG members to review the document and provide any additional feedback that may improve the document before it is finalised.**

FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

Attachment: Rehabilitation principles and commitments infographic

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Agenda Item 5

CURRENT LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECTS AND OTHER LAND MANAGEMENT BUSINESS

Please see below for updates on the current Dialogue land management projects:

Grazing Study and ACARP proposals

The Dialogue provided in-kind support for the successful ACARP project C27030 Examination of Past and Present Mine Rehabilitation to Grazing Land as a Guide to Future, which has received \$166,203 in funding through the 2017 ACARP funding grant process.

The project is currently seeking the information from mines with some progress made in retrieving this information. Given the environmental conditions, it is currently too dry to undertake field work, so this has impacted progress.

The Dialogue will continue to assist where possible to coordinate the provision of industry data, and a meeting is being sought with mine rehabilitation personnel to report and review on progress and plan future action.

Rehabilitation Reporting and Principles

Please see **Agenda item 4** for more information.

Beneficial reuse of voids project

No update. The Dialogue secretariat will incorporate information provided in these fact sheets in our ongoing communication and messaging regarding voids throughout 2018.

Awareness and promotion of rehabilitation in the Hunter Valley / Mine rehabilitation booklet

Please see **Agenda item 3** for more information.

FOR INFORMATION

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Agenda Item 6

HUNTER RIVER SALINITY TRADING SCHEME (HRSTS) STUDY

Issue

A study into the water quality of the Hunter River has shown that while the overall quality is high, and the Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme is functioning as intended, there are some further questions regarding elevated concentrations of elements that may require further assessment through an additional study.

Background

Following the initial study into the water quality at Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme discharge points compared to the overall health of the Hunter River, the Dialogue secretariat has decided to proceed with additional investigations into an identified issue regarding nitrate.

The EPA has indicated that they are keen to continue exploring these issues through a subsequent study guided by the Steering Committee. The Dialogue is also seeking AGL's continued participation in this study. The Steering Committee recently convened to discuss what this additional study might contain and how it may be implemented.

Following these discussions, there will now be two components to the additional study:

1. A review of other data sources for context and rigour such as other data points that monitor Nitrogen and any other background data measuring Nitrogen; and
2. A modelling exercise using real discharge data to understand what the levels of Nitrates would be when released. Such data is currently being sourced.

The decision to commence the additional study prior to the release of the initial study has been taken to highlight that the Dialogue's commitment to ensuring that the issues identified are being promptly addressed and investigated by sites, independent consultants and researchers.

The final report of the initial study is expected to be published shortly on the Dialogue's website once the second study has commenced.

Recommendation

- **Members note the progress made by the Dialogue with regards to the initial and subsequent HRSTS studies.**

FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

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Agenda Item 7

WATER ACCOUNTING FRAMEWORK UPDATE

Issue

All data for the 2017 calendar year has been collected and analysed for the Dialogue's Water Accounting Project. The Dialogue's attention now focuses to distributing this information.

Background

The Dialogue secretariat has finalised both a detailed infographic and simple water use infographic as has been completed in previous years and are seeking to publicly release the results shortly on the Dialogue website and to news outlets in the coming weeks accompanied by a media release. Please find **attached** both infographics for reference.

Key figures to note from the 2017 project results include:

- 2017 was a far drier than average year, with 203.5 billion litres entering the river system in the Upper Hunter. This is down from 471 billion litres in 2015, and 274 billion litres in 2016 and comparable to the 2014 results.
- 42% of that water stayed in the river, which is down from 78% in 2015 and 62% in 2016.
- The amount of water extracted by farmers, residents and businesses in 2017 was 55%. This increased from 21% of total water used in 2015 and 36% in 2016.
- The mining industry used 3% of water in the Upper Hunter River System, up from 1% in 2015 and 2% in 2016, to the same level of use in 2014, under similar conditions.
- The mining industry reused more than half of its water onsite (55%), which is an increase in previous efficiency results of 50% or below.
- 0.45% of mine water was discharged into the Hunter River due to the drier than average conditions meaning that companies had few opportunities to discharge excess water into the Hunter River System and were in fact keenly conserving their stored water.

Recommendation

- **That JEWG members review the Water Accounting Framework infographics and discuss the project.**

FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

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Agenda Item 8

CURRENT WATER PROJECTS AND OTHER WATER BUSINESS

Current Projects

Please find below an update on the following Dialogue water projects.

HRSTS Study

Please see **Agenda item 6** for more information.

MCA Water Accounting Framework

Please see **Agenda item 7** for more information.

Hunter Valley Bioregional Assessment

Following the release of the Hunter and Gloucester subregions in May/June 2018, these subregions have now been added to the BA Explorer. This resource can be viewed here:

<http://explorer.bioregionalassessments.gov.au/>

Other Water Business

NSW water reforms

JEWG members were advised at the previous meeting on the NSW Government community consultation on the NSW Water Reform Action Plan, which is aiming to deliver on its responsibility to ensure an equitable and transparent approach to the management of our water for current and future generations.

Legislation was introduced into NSW Parliament in June 2018 via the Water Management Amendment Bill 2018. The Plan is expected to be completed by mid-2019, and this deadline is being driven by commitments in the federal legislation and the Murray Darling Basin Plan. Further, the proposed framework for non-urban water meters in NSW has been released with the policy due to be implemented through regulations that will be consulted on in the third quarter of 2018.

Consultation is currently being undertaken regarding NSW water metering framework, with invitations for comments on the policy and draft regulation from Monday 27 August to Sunday 30 September 2018. Public sessions have recently been held in several locations throughout the state, as well as an upcoming webinar. The metering framework and regulation will be finalised once stakeholder feedback has been received, with the regulation expected to commence on 1 December 2018.

For information about the water reforms consultation and outcomes, please visit:

www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water-reform/consultation.

FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

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Agenda Item 9

DIALOGUE REALIGNMENT UPDATE

Issue

The realignment of the Dialogue's Working Groups is progressing in an effort to better reflect the current priorities of the Dialogue and ensure the initiative remains relevant to the Upper Hunter community.

Background

At the May 2018 JASC meeting, members recommended supporting the proposed realignment of the Dialogue's Working Groups to better reflect the changing priorities of the Dialogue, including:

- Consolidating the remaining Joint Working Groups into a single 'Environment' focused group, covering all key Air Quality, Water and Land Management projects;
- Establishing a new Communications Working Group, consisting of site or company comms specialists to help facilitate Dialogue messaging; and
- Establishing a new Economics and Social Development Working Group to focus on short-term matters of importance to the small to medium enterprise community, such as procurement opportunities and strengthening the economy here and now.

Terms of References for each of the new and consolidated Joint Working Groups have been drafted. Industry-only Working Groups will also support both the Environment, and the Economic and Social Development working groups. Given the bulk of the Terms of Reference are similar, we have not included all five documents. However, the **attached** document outlines the purpose and composition of each Working Group.

Invites have been sent to targeted representatives at each of the Dialogue's industry partners, with a positive reception to involvement from most parties to date. The Communications Working Group was recently held on 18 September, with the Joint Economic and Social Development Working Group looking to commence in early to mid-October (TBC).

In the economic development area there are two distinct areas of interest. Firstly, the 'short term' matters of importance to the small to medium enterprise community such as procurement opportunities and strengthening the economy now. Secondly, the strategic, 'long term' matters of importance to the wider community, industry and local and state government such as economic diversification, beneficial reuse of final voids and strategic land use planning.

These areas have distinctly different stakeholders, although noting that there may be some overlap. As such, it is proposed that the Economic and Social Working Group be focussed on matters of importance to the small to medium enterprise community and the more strategic areas become within the remit of the Joint Advisory Steering Committee.

Recommendations

- **That JEWG members note the progress made by the Dialogue in establishing the new Working Groups and advise the Dialogue secretariat of any additional representatives or stakeholders that may be required to ensure the continued relevance of the Dialogue.**

FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

**UHMD Joint Environment Working Group
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Agenda Item 10

WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP

Issue

The recent Dialogue realignment exercise has provided an opportunity to review the composition of existing working groups to ensure they continue to attract the right industry and community representatives to continue to deliver appropriate outcomes for the Dialogue.

Background

Given the consolidation of the two existing Joint Working Groups for Water & Land Management, and Emissions & Health into the Joint Environment Working Group, this meeting provides an opportunity for members to review the composition of both groups to ensure the appropriate contacts are engaged.

The Joint Environment Working Group's Terms of Reference have been **attached** for reference.

The Industry Environment Working Group's Terms of Reference are very similar in format, however remove the additional stakeholders involved.

Membership lists of both groups have also been **attached**.

Recommendation:

- **That JEWG members review the Terms of Reference to ensure these reflect the objectives of the Working Group and provide feedback where necessary to refine the terms of reference and membership composition.**

FOR DISCUSSION

Attachments:

- **Joint Environment Working Group - Terms of Reference**
- **Industry and Joint Environment Working Group Membership Lists**

**UHMD Joint Environment Working Group
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Agenda Item 11

2018 FORUM PLANNING

Issue

The 2018 Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Annual Forum is to be held on Tuesday 20 November 2018. The Dialogue is seeking to improve engagement with members and provide an annual event that generates meaningful discussions and ideas.

Background

Planning for the 2018 Forum is well underway, with the Dialogue seeking to ensure this yearly gathering of key Upper Hunter stakeholders can provide the most value and generate outcomes for the Upper Hunter community, now and well into the future.

Feedback from prior Forums has been generally positive, however the Dialogue secretariat is working to ensure that potential improvements are considered and factored into future events to improve engagement with stakeholders. The 2018 Forum provides an opportunity for all Dialogue stakeholders to come together and learn more about the Dialogue's recent projects and activities through having meaningful discussions, and sharing ideas, comments, or concerns in an environment that understands and acknowledges their contributions and can actively work to address them.

Key criticisms regarding past forums have focused on the perception that the same issues are regularly discussed year to year and that they are hearing from the same people on a regular basis.

The JASC recommended the Dialogue consider moving away from a format with numerous, lengthy presentations or panel discussions, as these are unlikely to generate a significant amount of interest. After a long discussion, the JASC agreed that a change in direction for the Forum is needed. While there will be an initial scene setting presentation on the past year of Dialogue activities since the 2017 Forum, the Forum will then open up and allow attendees to engage with a range of industry, business, academic and other community representatives to learn more about key projects.

One of the key changes will be the inclusion of industry procurement personnel to help SME representatives gain a better understanding of how to access local procurement opportunities. This process will also allow SMEs to identify the barriers they are facing with respect to these opportunities and how the industry might help facilitate programs in this space. The Dialogue is also actively seeking the support of councils and business chambers in promoting the event.

Recommendation

- **That JEWG members note the Forum agenda and provide feedback and/or suggestions where necessary to help guide the Dialogue's plan and prepare for the Forum.**

FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

Attachment: 2018 Forum Agenda

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Agenda Item 12

SYNOPTIC PLAN REVIEW UPDATE

Issue

The Synoptic Plan Review is currently underway. Members recently met to discuss the progress made on the plan and revisit whether the review is proceeding along the objectives agreed at the 2017 Workshop.

Background

At previous Dialogue meetings in May/June 2018, Dialogue members expressed concerns regarding the progress of the Synoptic Plan review, encouraging a continued coordinated government approach to strategic long-term land use planning in the Upper Hunter. Members supported writing to, and meeting with the key government agencies involved to express the views of the Dialogue and encourage ongoing support for the review process.

Following both Dialogue and industry discussions, NSWMC recently wrote a letter to Stephen Barry (NSW Department of Planning) to encourage the continued development of the Upper Hunter Landscape Visualisation Project, citing the significant interest from community and industry for the continuation of this project, given the value which a visual projection of the future landscape has in communicating the post mining landform.

A second Synoptic Plan workshop was recently held on 3 August 2018 at Singleton Diggers. The review was well supported politically with Michael Johnsen MP and Clayton Barr MP attending. Updates were provided from the various government departments that are working on aspects of the review and it appears some progress has been made. However, there appears to be a declining involvement from community members in the review process.

DPC advised during the workshop that the Synoptic Plan content will be housed on the Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils website: <http://strategicservicesaustralia.com.au/joint-organisation/timeline/>

Feedback was provided by workshop participants on the priorities of the key actions from the Hunter Regional Plan and also on gaps that were not addressed by the Regional Plan.

The Dialogue will continue to seek the government's support for both the Synoptic Plan review process and the Upper Hunter Landscape Visualisation project and will seek to have the government attend the 2018 Forum to update participants on any progress made since the August 2018 Workshop.

Recommendation

- **That JEWG members provide feedback on the Synoptic Plan review, taking into account the outcomes of the recent workshop.**

FOR DISCUSSION

**UHMD Joint Environment Working Group
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Agenda Item 13

UPDATE ON COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES

Issue

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue continues to progress projects and initiatives through the Dialogue's communication strategy in 2018.

Background

Please see below for an update on key activities:

A. General Communications Update

Recent activities have been dominated by the roll out of the 2018 School Mine Tours Program:

Media/communication plans:

- Since the first tours in May the program has fielded 8 tours involving 234 students from 11 primary schools. The tours have been outstanding successes with all mines involved (Mt Owen, Mangoola, Ravensworth, Mount Thorley Warkworth, Wambo and Muswellbrook Coal) putting in a fantastic effort and drawing very good feedback from the students and teachers. Three tours were postponed due to wet weather (including one tour rained out twice) with one tour successfully rescheduled. The other postponed tour is yet to be rescheduled due to school commitments. A new round of tours has recommenced in September with the 5 remaining primary school tours (including the tour yet to be rescheduled) before the 12 scheduled high school tours roll out in October/November. At this stage, we expect the full 2018 program to include 25 tours and almost 900 students from 17 schools.
- The Dialogue website has been updated to include recent results and developments in projects. The Dialogue secretariat will now look to ensure that all new content, including Joint Working Group minutes and papers, as well as other relevant reports are uploaded to the site in a timely fashion.
- A Dialogue Facebook page has recently been activate, and content will be published regularly. Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/UPPERHUNTERMININGDIALOGUE/> for further information. The Dialogue will seek to leverage off other information sources where relevant.
- A four-page newsletter has been produced and is being distributed both electronically and in print to all Dialogue stakeholders. Please find this **attached** following the update.
- Industry and community members have been invited to participate in the new Communications Working Group; with the first meeting of the working group held on 18 September (see **Agenda item 9** Dialogue realignment update for further information).

Recent Media:

- The School Mine Tours Program has generated positive media coverage with Fairfax running multiple articles and photos in print and online. @thecoalface has also supported the program with good coverage – including a photo on the cover of its June/July edition.
- An article was prepared for @TheCoalface highlighting the Dialogue realignment, and to promote the upcoming 2018 Forum. This will run in the upcoming edition, with regular promotion of the Forum scheduled until November.

Community Engagement:

The Dialogue was on display at the NSW Mining HSEC Conference on August 6 and 7, and more recently at the Broke Village Fair on September 9. Upcoming community events include the Singleton Show September 27-28.

B. Targeted Stakeholder Meetings Update

The Dialogue's Chair and Secretariat has commenced a targeted stakeholder engagement via a series of meetings with priority local interest and environment groups and Community Consultative Committees.

The meetings to date have provided an opportunity to discuss and learn more about the current priorities and issues various stakeholders have and exchange information on the Dialogue's current activities and whether any issues or projects identified may be supported through the Dialogue's ongoing work. All members have been invited to attend Dialogue Working Groups and the 2018 Forum and added to the Dialogue's Stakeholder contact list to ensure they remain engaged in the Dialogue's updates.

Recent meetings that have occurred since the previous JASC meeting include:

- Stewart Ewen (representing the Hunter Valley Protection Alliance, Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Alliance, and the NSW Wine Industry Association) - Topics discussed included the Dialogue needing to tackle long-term land use concerns and helping the region's residents better share in the benefits of the industry. The Dialogue was encouraged to participate in several projects focused on strategic land use planning and tourism that are currently underway by the Wine Industry Association and Lock the Gate, which will look at the perception of environmental impacts from mining on the wine sector and local tourism. Mr Ewen advised he would participate in the Dialogue when time permits.
- Jan Davis and Bev Smiles (representing the Hunter Environment Lobby) - Topics discussed included the perceived influence of industry on the independence of the Dialogue, and the need for more considered communication of Dialogue projects to reflect the community. Cumulative impacts of mining were discussed, although it was noted that the visual amenity in the region has recently improved. Strategic planning and the mine closure process was also discussed with Ms. Davis and Ms. Smiles expressing an interest in the economic diversification work being undertaken and were offered a guided tour of a mine site that is undergoing the closure process.
- Malabar Coal CCC - Chaired by Jennifer Lecky, this involved engagement with 4 community members, with general interest in the Dialogue's actions, in particular the grazing study.
- Georgina Woods and Danielle Coleman (representing Lock the Gate) - This discussion provided an opportunity to talk through some of the Dialogue projects the Dialogue is progressing. LTG advised that they would consider attending the annual forum in 2018.
- Muswellbrook Race Club - The Dialogue secretariat had a tour of the 2018 Forum venue to prepare for logistics, however had a discussion regarding local procurement and the difficulties faced by local businesses in accessing these opportunities.
- Muswellbrook Coal Company CCC – Chaired by Rod Scoles, this involved engagement with three non-industry members, with interest in the land management projects.
- Ravensworth Operations CCC - Chaired by Wej Paradise, this meeting involved engagement with three non-industry members from Council and five industry members. There was significant interest in the Dialogue's realignment and new organisational structure, as well as how projects were undertaken.

Further meetings will be scheduled shortly with additional stakeholders and CCC's to ensure the Dialogue continues to re-engage with the following community organisations:

- Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association
- Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils'
- NSW Farmers Association
- HunterNet
- Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association
- CFMEU

A revised newsletter (**attached**) was recently emailed out to nearly 300 Dialogue stakeholder contacts, including the priority engagement contacts, to provide an update on the recent activities undertaken by the Dialogue. This is intended to be a bi-annual update, with another to be prepared for distribution in early December 2018 summarising the Forum and progress made in projects towards the end of 2018.

FOR INFORMATION

Attachment: Dialogue Newsletter July 2018

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Agenda Item 14

UPPER HUNTER DUST RISK FORECASTING SCHEME

Issue

As JEWG members may be aware, the EPA has been developing its dust risk forecasting system for the Upper Hunter and has now decided on how the system will be implemented.

Background

At the March 2018, Joint Working Group for Emissions & Health, members received an update from Mitch Bennett at the EPA on the Dust Risk Forecasting Scheme that the EPA has been working on.

The presentation was well received, and Mr. Bennett sought feedback on the direction for the program after outlining the challenges that were experienced in conducting the modelling. The following key points were discussed during the briefing:

- Air quality in the region is generally good with 80-90% of days in Singleton and Muswellbrook being good to very good. This makes it a difficult process to identify the small percentage of days that may be a high risk for dust generation.
- The model is set up to identify a 25 microgram increase in PM10 from Merriwa to Singleton.
- OEH trialled two models over three months.
- The models use weather forecasts as an input which proved problematic in accurate forecasting.
- During the trial period both models accurately predicted a high-risk day once from the four occurrences.
- Reasons for the missed predictions included inaccurate weather forecasts, lower than expected production and modelling issues. The forecasts may complement site specific forecasting information and may be of use to industry in preparing for high risk days.

The EPA recently announced that from 1 September 2018, a system will be implemented to notify the industry and the community of potentially high-risk dust days as well as using the system to guide the EPA's inspection program. The intent is to increase general awareness of these high-risk days and ensure mines are complying with their regulatory requirements.

The EPA is planning to notify the community of high-risk days via Twitter. For mining operations, the EPA has developed a system whereby nominated contacts at each mine will be directly notified via email, which will contain an automatically generated forecast at 3pm for the subsequent day. It is understood that there have been some technical difficulties in administering these emails initially, however sites have reported regular forecast emails being received in the interim.

The EPA has advised that they have stepped away from using the system as a regulatory tool given the inaccuracies encountered in the predictive model and the potential for false alarms, however it will be used to inform their regular inspections.

Recommendation

- **That JEWG members note the recent introduction of dust risk forecasting measures in the Upper Hunter and provide feedback on how these notifications have been received.**

FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

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Agenda Item 15

UPPER HUNTER AIR QUALITY MONITORING NETWORK UPDATE

Issue

The Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network (UHAQMN) regularly provides high-quality, regional air quality monitoring information on the Upper Hunter.

Autumn 2018 Seasonal Update (1 March to 31 May 2018) (report attached)

Upper Hunter air quality for 1 March to 31 May 2018 was generally good. Muswellbrook and Singleton large population sites recorded very good to fair air quality indices for 96% and 98% of time, respectively. Key findings during this period are outlined below:

- Levels of fine particulate matter PM^{2.5} (particles less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and sulfur dioxide (SO₂) were below national benchmark concentrations.
- Daily average levels of PM¹⁰ (particles less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter) were above the 50 µg/m³ benchmark on 17 days (18–20 March 11–13 and 15 April, and 4, 8–11, 18–22 May). This was more days compared to previous autumns. Regional maximum daily PM¹⁰ levels on these days ranged from 51.5 to 84.0 µg/m³.
 - All sites in the region recorded one or more days over the benchmark. This ranged from one day at Merriwa to 12 days at Camberwell (Table 1, see below).
 - Conditions in the region continued to be dry and warm, resulting in particle impacts predominantly from local and long-range dust (rather than fires) during the season. A large portion of NSW is drought affected, with a high number of widespread dust storms seen in autumn.
 - The most extensive events occurred on 19 March and 15 April, being exceptional events due to long-range dust transport. On 19 March, 35 air quality monitoring stations in the NSW network recorded PM₁₀ levels over the benchmark. A dust storm was reported on 18 March through Canberra, travelling out to the east coast and impacting the Upper Hunter from later that night under south east winds. On 15 April, PM¹⁰ levels over the benchmark were recorded at all Hunter air quality monitoring stations along with Tamworth, Gunnedah and Narrabri. The region was impacted by long-range dust from the State's west on this day.
 - The larger population sites recorded PM¹⁰ levels over the benchmark on 19 March (Aberdeen and Singleton), 20 March (Aberdeen and Muswellbrook), 11 April (Muswellbrook), 15 April (all three), and 4 May (Muswellbrook). On 11 April, Muswellbrook was possibly impacted by smoke (with PM^{2.5} also increasing), however no source yet identified. On 4 May, Muswellbrook and southern sites were most likely impacted by local dust under elevated west to north west winds. April and May had amongst the highest dust activity in NSW since DustWatch commenced in 2005.

Recommendation

- That JEWG members note the latest UHAQMN results for Autumn 2018.

FOR INFORMATION

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Agenda Item 16

UPPER HUNTER AIR QUALITY FACT SHEETS

Issue

There is currently increased community concern regarding air quality in the Upper Hunter, given the dry environmental conditions.

Background

The Joint Working Group for Emissions & Health has recently developed two air quality fact sheets that aim to provide the community with factual information on why managing air quality is important, and what the NSW Government and industry operations are doing to minimise dust and manage impacts.

The idea to produce Upper Hunter air quality resources stemmed from local council representatives receiving regular queries from the community on the air quality in the Upper Hunter, and not having a ready-to-go resource summarising the issue, and the various key initiatives that manage air quality.

Two air quality fact sheets have been finalised. One contains information regarding air quality in the Upper Hunter and outlines what particulate matter is and why it is important that it be managed effectively. Another contains information on the key actions that the NSW Government and mining operations in the Upper Hunter are undertaking to ensure that emissions are minimised wherever possible, and should air quality issues arise, that they are effectively managed.

The two fact sheets are **attached** for reference, and can be accessed on the Dialogue website via the 'Air Quality Resources' page: <http://www.nswmining.com.au/dialogue/latest-projects/emissions-and-health/air-quality-resources>

Recommendation

- **That JEWG members note the air quality fact sheet resources and consider their wider use in communicating air quality initiatives to Upper Hunter community members.**

FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

Attachments: Upper Hunter Air Quality Fact Sheets

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Agenda Item 17

CURRENT DIALOGUE EMISSIONS AND HEALTH PROJECTS

Air Quality Communications

Members are encouraged to share the Dialogue's Clearing the Air short video. The YouTube link to the video can be found here: <https://youtu.be/q4TojwxKVRQ>.

The video has also now been embedded on the Dialogue website through recent updates. The video was also recently shown at an Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network Committee meeting by the EPA and resonated well with members as an informative video.

Weather Forecasting Project / Community Air Quality Forecast Alert

Please see **Agenda item 14** for more information.

Upper Hunter Air Quality Fact Sheets

Please see **Agenda Item 16** for more information.

Update of Mine Dust and You Fact Sheet

No update to provide.

OTHER AIR QUALITY MATTERS

NSW Government Air Quality Initiatives

The NSW Government is currently considering the next steps for several air quality initiatives, including:

- Clean Air for NSW
- Non-road diesel
- Load Based Licensing (LBL) Scheme Review
- Chief Scientist's review of coal train dust

The JEWG will be notified of any developments as these initiatives progress.

North West Air Quality Monitoring Network

Two new air quality monitoring stations were constructed in Gunnedah and Narrabri and began publicly reporting real-time data in December 2017. The network provides scientific, timely information to the community about air quality in the region. The addition of further monitoring stations to the network will be considered through the Namoi Regional Air Quality Advisory Committee. The daily site air quality index figures in these regions since the monitors were installed has been Very Good in Narrabri, and Good in Gunnedah (based on averages).

FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

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Agenda Item 18

PRESENTATION: CATE FISHER - MINE REHABILITATION BY INDUSTRIAL SYMBIOSIS

Issue

The Dialogue receives requests from external stakeholders seeking support for various projects that may be related to the Dialogue's key themes or projects. It is important that these be given due consideration by the relevant Joint Working Groups.

About the presenter

Cate Fisher presented at the 2018 Tom Farrell Institute Mine Rehabilitation Conference on proposed system of mine rehabilitation titled 'Mine rehabilitation by industrial symbiosis'. The system proposes an environmental, social and economic alternative to the current methods of mine rehabilitation by using mine voids scheduled for rehabilitation and plastic/glass waste to create growing terraces, which can be planted with perennial plants/small trees which will store carbon in the soil. Ms. Fisher is seeking to progress the proposal to a feasibility study.

Please see the **attached** document for a revised project application for Mine Rehabilitation by Industrial Symbiosis from Cate Fisher.

This proposal was initially discussed by the JASC, who requested additional information, and was further recommended for review by the JEWG. Feedback gathered from JEWG members will be provided to the JASC and ISC for final consideration, should the project be supported.

Recommendation

- **JEWG members consider the revised proposal and advise the Dialogue secretariat if further action beyond the distribution of the material is warranted.**

FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

Attachment: Mine Rehabilitation by Industrial Symbiosis by Cate Fisher

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Agenda Item 19

NEXT MEETING / MEETING CLOSE

The next Joint Working Group meeting date is yet to be scheduled. Invitations will be sent out shortly once 2019 meeting dates have been determined.

We encourage member feedback on their preferred meeting times/dates and will seek to accommodate these in our 2019 planning.