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## **AGENDA**

### **NSW Minerals Council**

### **UHMD Joint Working Group Meeting - Land Management**

**Singleton Information Centre  
New England Highway  
Singleton NSW 2330**

**30 July 2014: 1:30pm - 4:30pm**

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1. Welcome and Apologies
  2. Minutes of meeting dated 9 May 2014
  3. Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments (information and discussion)
  4. Grazing Study (information and discussion)
  5. Biodiversity Reference Sites (information and discussion)
  6. Voids Project (information and discussion)
  7. Reviewing the progress of the UHMD and new projects (discussion)
  8. Other business

**NSW Minerals Council  
UHMD Joint Working Group Land Management – 30 July 2014**

Agenda Item 2

**MINUTES**

**Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue  
UHMD Joint Working Group Meeting - Land Management  
Quest Apartments, Singleton – Thursday 9 May**

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**In Attendance**

Chris Quinn	Vale Integra Coal Operations
Morgana Gidley-Baird	Mt Arthur Coal BHP Billiton
Craig Flemming	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Matthew Newton	NSW Department of Trade and Investment
Tony Cox	NSW Department of Trade and Investment
Chris Knight	Idemitsu Australia Resources Group
Wendy Bowman	NSW Mine Watch
Matt Parkinson	Bayswater Power Station
Bill Baxter	Rio Tinto - Coal & Allied Industries Ltd
Jim Morgan	Wybong Action Group
Brooke York	Anglo American Metallurgical Coal
Clarence Robertson	Anglo American Metallurgical Coal
Claire Doherty	NSW Minerals Council
Ron Fenwick	

**Apologies**

Neil Nelson	Singleton Beef and Land Management Association
Steve Clarkson	Singleton Council
Leonie Ball	Singleton Beef and Land Management Association
Jason Desmond	Bloomfield Collieries
Angela Hawdon	Fauna & Flora
Nigel Charnock	Glencore
Emma Ridley	Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association Inc
Jo Powells	NSW Department of Primary Industries
John Drinan	Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group
Chris Knight	Idemitsu Australia Resources Group
Ken Bray	Hunter Valley Water Users' Association
Scotney Moore	Yancoal Australia - Ashton Coal Operations Pty Ltd

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## 1. Welcome and Apologies

Clarence Robertson welcomed the members and noted the apologies.

## 2. Confirmation of minutes and actions arising from 15 November 2013 meeting

The minutes were confirmed.

It was noted that the action item with regard to including a ratio of rehabilitated land to disturbed land has now been include in the rehabilitation data reporting

Matt Parkinson, Macquarie Generation noted that they have a void filled with fly ash that could be included in any rehabilitation tour.

## 3. Update on Projects

The following projects were discussed:

### Grazing study

Lester McCormick, Department of Primary Industries (DPI) provided an update on the progress of the project. Lester advised the group that:

- ACARP funding is confirmed. ACARP have also advised that there is a possibility of further funding in the future when the project has results.
- Lester is also going to speak to Meat and Livestock Australia about potential involvement/ funding for future extension of the project
- DPI are undertaking Land Function Analysis and soil sampling. This has been delayed by the wet weather.
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- The companies are progressing their fencing and other infrastructure
- At the request of the joint working group, Neil Nelson has been engaged by NSWMC to advise on the selection of the steers for the project. Coal & Allied's leasees have now purchased 30 Angus steers. Mt Arthur's leasee will use Angus stock from his herd.
- DPI are working on a set of protocols on the management of the stock to ensure consistent management across the two sites.

Ron Fenwick asked about the timing of the sale of the steers. Lester advised that we are moving away from a fixed date to making a commercial decision about this, within the boundaries of ensuring the study remains scientifically robust. Advice from the Grazing Study Advisory Panel (Agenda Item 4) will be sought with regard to this issue.

Jim Morgan noted that there were some interesting insights gained from the trip to Liddell and their trial, and that it would be worthwhile integrating management of the study with that trail where we can.

It was noted that there is a lot of similarity. Nigel Charnock from Glencore is on this group and we can use the group to keep updated about the Liddell trial and understand where we can take a common approach.

## 4. Proposed Grazing Study Advisory Panel

DPI propose to form an advisory panel to assist in the adaptive management of the grazing study, and to ensure that the project is, as much as practicable, reflective of local practices.

The joint working group agreed to the proposed composition of the panel, including the companies, the leasees, DPI, DRE (Division of Resources and Energy) and two community group/ local grazier representatives.

DPI nominated Wendy Bowman and Leonie Ball to take up the local representative positions and both accepted. Ron Fenwick asked to be able to observe the meetings from time to time and this was agreed by the working group.

DPI will provide the secretariat for the meetings.

**5. December Workshop Feedback**

This paper was noted.

**6. Other business**

**NSW Minerals Council**  
**UHMD Land Management Joint Working Group Meeting – 30 July 2014**

Agenda Item 3

**REHABILITATION PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS**

**Issue**

The Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments reporting will be released in early August.

**Background**

This reporting had initially been targeted for release in the first quarter of 2014. Pressure on resources at some of the mines has pushed this back, but all of the reports against the principles are now in, as is the rehabilitation data.

Given the proximity to the Joint Working Group meeting we have held off publishing the reports and data until this meeting to allow the joint working group to see the data before it is released. As the data is embargoed until its public release, it will be shown to the group in a powerpoint presentation at the meeting, on the undertaking of the members to treat the information as confidential pending its release by NSWMC.

The Industry Working Group Land Management saw an earlier version of the data and thought that it would be valuable to add a line showing the area of current total rehabilitation. This is a snapshot of all the current rehabilitation. It does not include any areas that have been rehabilitated and then re-disturbed.

The plan for the release of the data and reports is:

- Reports and data to be posted in the Dialogue website
- Media release linking to the reports and data on the website
- Email to all UHMD participants to let them know that the data and reports have been released.

**FOR INFORMATION**

**NSW Minerals Council**  
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Agenda Item 4

**GRAZING STUDY - UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS**

**Issue**

DPI have been working towards introducing cattle to the sites in July 2014.

**Background**

DPI have advised that the following progress has been made in relation to the grazing study:

- They have completed all baseline land function analysis, pasture and soil measurements for all sites study sites.
- They have drafted and circulated management protocols for the sites and received feedback from the companies (and through them the leasees). The protocols are attached at Appendix B. These may be further refined after the first meeting of the Grazing Study Advisory Panel.
- Confirmed the membership of the advisory panel and are arranging the first meeting (see Draft ToR).
- Completed a draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the advisory panel (the Draft ToR is attached appendix B).

Next steps

The steers were introduced to the Mt Arthur rehabilitation site and Edderton analogue site on Thursday 24 July 2014. The cattle were weighed, had blood taken and tagged before being introduced to the sites. The Local Land Services vet will be on site to take the blood and DPI staff will oversee the whole process and record data including weight.

Coal & Allied are completing their fencing and water, and cattle will be introduced to both the rehabilitation site and the Wandawoi analogue sites when this is completed, most likely mid August. The same process for obtaining baseline information that has been undertaken at Mt Arthur will apply at Coal & Allied.

DPI's general assessment of site condition at the present time is that there are reasonable pastures for the introduction of steers at all four sites, but rain would of course be welcome.

The following is also being undertaken by DPI:

- Organising the first meeting of the advisory panel
- Updating the project Gant chart to provide the JWG and advisory panel members of the key milestones and events of the project.

Interaction between the JWG and the advisory panel

This is a matter for discussion at this JWG meeting. The draft ToR proposes that issues may be referred by DPI from the JWG to the panel as they arise. The ToR also proposes that the minutes of the advisory panel are made available to members of the JWG. NSWMC will also continue to include in the papers for the JWG an update on the project which will highlight advice from the advisory panel.

**FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**

**NSW Minerals Council**  
**UHMD Land Management Joint Working Group Meeting – 30 July 2014**

Agenda Item 5

**BIODIVERSITY REFERENCE SITES PILOT**

**Issue**

This project involves Coal & Allied and Glencore as a number of their sites have consent conditions requiring rehabilitation of the communities subject to the pilot.

**Background**

The first stage of this project was to undertake a feasibility study to identify whether there is enough similarity between the commitments and monitoring requirements of the Coal & Allied and Glencore projects. An assessment was undertaken by Umwelt and it appears that the project is feasible from an information sharing point of view.

The next stage is to check whether the project is feasible commercially. This requires a consideration of the costs of implementing and monitoring the reference sites and a comparison against what the companies are each currently paying for this monitoring individually. Coal and Allied and Glencore are undertaking this internal process. If the project is feasible then the next stages will be:

- Stage 2 - NSWMC has set aside budget for this part of the project and it will commence if the project is feasible.
  - Completion of a strategy that addresses the typical characteristics of reference sites, recommends candidate reference sites and provides the general guidance required to develop the specific sites.
- Stage 3/ Implementation - the participating companies will fund this stage.
  - Development of the specific monitoring strategy which details the monitoring methodology, regularity and frequency
  - On-ground site selection and commencement of baseline monitoring.

**Recommendation to be discussed by the JWG:**

- The Stage 2 process would benefit from input from the Joint Working Group (JWG). It is proposed that a small sub-group of interested representatives from the JWG be formed to assist the participating companies and consultants in this part of the project. The commitment is likely to be 1-2 meetings and at least an hour of reading time.
- The JWG's feedback is sought on this process and if agreed, volunteers from the JWG are sought to join the sub-group.

**FOR INFORMATION AND DECISION**

**NSW Minerals Council**  
**UHMD Land Management Joint Working Group Meeting – 30 July 2014**

Agenda Item 6

**VOIDS PROJECT**

**Issue**

Dr Clint McCullough and his team at Golder Associates are working first stage of the voids project.

**Background**

The first stage of the voids project involves a literature review to assess the beneficial uses of voids in other parts of Australia as well as internationally. The other main piece of work in this stage is gathering data to provide a picture of the environmental conditions that will be specific to voids in the Upper Hunter.

Golders are undertaking the second part of the work by examining six environmental impact statements for Upper Hunter projects.

There are five projects currently agreed and NSWMC are seeking a sit project. The agreed projects are:

- BHP Biliton's Mt Arthur Modification Project (still in assessment, but generally agreed to be a useful example)
- Glencore's Ravensworth North
- Coal & Allied's Hunter Valley Operations South
- Muswellbrook Coal Modification Area C
- Glencore's Mt Owen Mine

These projects have been chosen as they provide a good representation of the mines in the Upper Hunter, they cover large and smaller voids and have a good geographical spread.

**FOR INFORMATION**

**NSW Minerals Council**  
**UHMD Land Management Joint Working Group Meeting – 30 July 2014**

Agenda Item 7

**REVIEWING THE PROGRESS OF THE UHMD AND NEW PROJECTS**

**Issue**

At the December Workshop 2013 participants were asked to provide feedback on how we could progress the UHMD. This was the beginning of a process to continue to evolve the Dialogue to ensure that it progresses and that we have in place good, effective ways of working together.

**Background**

The UHMD has always been an evolving process. Those who have been participating from the beginning can reflect on the changing nature of the engagement from the survey and first workshop in July 2011 through to the formation of the joint working groups and the December workshop 2013.

As the Dialogue has progressed we have all become very invested in the process, and ensuring that it continues to be successful at addressing the cumulative impacts of mining in the region. To do this it is important to step back from time to time, assess our progress, structures and process and make any changes.

Earlier in 2014 all of the industry groups came together - the Executive Oversight Committee, the Steering Committee and the industry working groups on land, emissions and health, social impacts and infrastructure and water. That workshop reflected on the progress of the Dialogue to date and where to next. The outcomes of the workshop were:

- Commit to completing/ implementing as far as possible the current UHMD projects over the period to September 2014. This is progressing.
- Communicate more broadly with the public about the UHMD. We have developed a communications strategy.
- In September/ October 2014 review the progress of the UHMD with participants to decide where to next. We have started working on what this process will look like and will be looking for input from community and government representatives on the UHMD.

**FOR INFORMATION**