



NSW MINERALS COUNCIL
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AGENDA
NSW Minerals Council

UHMD Joint Working Group Meeting - Land Management

Quest Apartments
5-7 Civic Avenue
Singleton NSW 2330

Friday 9 May: 9.00am-12.00pm

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1. Welcome and Apologies
 2. Minutes of meeting on 15 November 2013
 3. Update on Projects (including presentation from Lester McCormick, Department of Primary Industries)
 4. Proposed Grazing Study Advisory Panel
 5. December Workshop Feedback
 6. Other business

DRAFT Actions arising from meeting on 13 November 2013
UHMD Joint Working Group Land Management

Action	Responsibility	Status
1. Welcome and Apologies		
2. Confirmation of Minutes of 30 July 2013		
3. Biodiversity Reference Sites Project – Update presentation		
4. Upper Hunter Strategic Assessment – Presentation by Office of Environment and Heritage		
5. Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments - Final version and reporting		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSWMC to investigate adding a ratio of land rehabilitated to land disturbed is to be added to the Temporary and Final Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments. 	NSWMC	
6. Rehabilitation Tours – Discussion		
7. Other Business		

DRAFT MINUTES

**UHMD Joint Working Group Land Management
Singleton Visitor Information Centre
Townhead Park, New England Highway, Singleton**

13 November 2013: 2.00pm-4.30pm

Present

Nigel Charnock	Glencore - XCN Corporate Office - Bulga
Troy Favell	Peabody Energy - Wambo Coal Pty Ltd
Wendy Bowman	NSW Mine Watch
Scotney Moore	Yancoal Australia - Ashton Coal Operations Pty Ltd
Brooke Lavis	Anglo American
Chris Knight	Muswellbrook Coal Company Ltd
Catherine Karpel	NSW Department of Trade and Investment
Neil Griffiths	NSW Department of Primary Industries
John Drinan	Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group
Hamish McTaggart	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Sam Taylor	Integra Coal Operations Pty Ltd
Jason Desmond	Bloomfield Collieries - Rix's Creek Pty Ltd
Craig Flemming	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Rebecca Marcus	BHP Billiton - Mt Arthur Coal
Bill Baxter	Rio Tinto - Coal & Allied Industries Ltd
Matthew Newton	NSW Department of Trade and Investment
Jennifer Warner	Department of Primary Industries NSW
Claire Doherty	NSW Minerals Council
Steve Clarkson	Singleton Council
Emma Ridley	Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association Inc
Neil Nelson	Singleton Beef and Land Management Association

Guests

David Rudder	NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
Sharon Molloy	NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
Travis Peake	Umwelt

Apologies

Clarence Robertson	Anglo American
Lachlan Crawford	BHP Billiton - Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd Mt Arthur Coal
Sean Constable	Upper Hunter Shire Council - Scone
Michael McFadyen	NSW Department of Trade & Investment
Tony Cox	NSW Department of Trade and Investment
Lester McCormick	Department of Primary Industries, Agriculture
Ian Napier	Hunter Valley Wine Industry Association
Greg Summerhayes	NSW Department of Trade and Investment
Peter Dixon-Hughes	NSW Farmers Association

Leonie Ball
Arthur Burns
Lachlan Crawford
Sean Constable
Glenda Briggs
Angela Hawdon
Ron Fenwick

Singleton Beef and Land Management Association
Hunter Valley Water Users' Association
BHP Billiton - Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd Mt Arthur Coal
Upper Hunter Shire Council - Scone
NSW Department of Trade & Investment
Fauna & Flora

1. Welcome and Apologies

Nigel Charnock welcomed members of the working group and advised that he would chair the meeting in the absence of Clarence Robertson who had provided his apologies for the meeting.

2. Confirmation of the minutes from the 30 July 2013

The minutes of the meeting in 30 July 2013 were confirmed. The following report was provided with regard to actions arising:

- Department of Primary Industries have updated the project design in accordance with what was agreed at the meeting on 30 July. The updated design is contained in DPI's full proposal to ACARP which has been circulated.
- NSWMC and the participating companies are organising a field trip to the sites, this will most likely be in February 2014.
- MAC have narrowed the selection of areas for the project. Lachlan Crawford is an apology for the meeting but will provide an update at the next meeting.

3. Biodiversity Reference Sites Project – Update presentation

This presentation fulfilled an action arising from the meeting on 30 July 2013. Travis Peake from Umwelt gave an overview of the project, its challenges and the next steps. The presentation is attached to the minutes.

4. Upper Hunter Strategic Assessment – Presentation by Office of Environment and Heritage

Presentation by David Rudder from the Office of Environment and Heritage. David explained that the Office of Environment and Heritage has begun consultation in the Upper Hunter with councils and interested groups including the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association. The presentation is attached to the minutes.

5. Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments – Final version and reporting

Claire Doherty advised that the version of the Temporary and Final Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments attached to the papers reflects the changes to the document sought by the sub-group of the Joint Working Group, and agreed by the Joint Working Group at the meeting on 30 July 2013. The Joint Working Groups approval of the Principles is sought.

Craig Flemming from Muswellbrook Shire Council raised two matters with regard to the Principles:

- *Should the total area of land to be disturbed by the project be included in the reporting?*

There were concerns expressed that this information did not fit in the context of the reporting. The reporting aims to drive rehabilitation performance on an annual basis, and reports data which changes on an annual basis. The Principles aim to report

data which is not otherwise aggregated for the whole of the Upper Hunter (It was noted that MSC's State of the Environment Report does aggregated disturbance and rehabilitation data for that local government area). Total approved disturbance is a static number, does not reflect actual disturbance and does not fulfil a purpose in driving progressive rehabilitation.

- *Should the reporting include a ratio of land disturbed to land rehabilitated during the reporting period?*

It was acknowledged that this information can already be calculated from the information proposed to be reported, however it would be helpful to readers of the report to have this information available.

ACTION:

NSWMC to investigate adding a ratio of land rehabilitated to land disturbed is to be added to the Temporary and Final Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments.

6. Rehabilitation Tours – Discussion

The Joint Working Group's views were sought on what should be included in a rehabilitation tour in early 2014. The Joint Working Group advised that they would particularly like to see:

- Voids given that the Joint Working Group has a project on beneficial uses for voids.
- Challenges that are currently facing the industry.
- Areas where rehabilitation has failed and how this is being addressed, what has been learnt.

7. Other Business

Claire Doherty confirmed that a workshop with all stakeholders would be held on 3 December 2013 and advised that a group of stakeholders and industry representatives had met in the morning to plan the workshop. One aspect of the workshop would be the use of an open space session to provide information to participants about the projects.

Claire explained that the open space would include collateral about the projects, such as posters, maps, handouts, and would be 'manned' by members of the joint Working Group. Claire asked members of the Joint Working Group to think about what might be useful collateral to communicate about the project and whether they would like to be involved. Claire advised that she would follow up with an email in the next week.

ACTION:

- NSWMC to contact members of the working group about content for the land management open space at the December Workshop.

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Agenda Item 3

PROJECTS UPDATE

Land Management

Grazing Study

The Grazing study now has full funding with the approval of \$118,000 from the Division of Resources and Energy. The study will run for the proposed 42 months. The funding will go to the Department of Primary Industries to pay for the costs of managing the projects and undertaking the monitoring and analysis. The remainder of the funding was secured last year through the Australian Coal Association Research Program. Coal & Allied and BHP Billiton Mt Arthur Coal are responsible for the costs of setting up their individual projects (fencing, yards, water etc) and their leasees will provide stock and stock management.

The next steps are for the stock to be sourced. Coal & Allied's leasees will be purchasing Angus weaners, and BHP Billiton Mt Arthur Coal's leasee will be using Angus cattle from his existing herd. At the request of the Joint Working Group, Neil Nelson is providing advice on the stock used in the trial. It is proposed to set up a Grazing Study Advisory Panel which will provide advice during the study (see agenda item 4).

Lester McCormick, Department of Primary Industries will be providing an update presentation on the project at the meeting.

Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments

Most companies have now completed their reports. Although we indicated we would publish reports and aggregate data in quarter one 2014, this now looks more likely to be completed in May. Issues, including getting AEMRs completed have caused the delay.

Biodiversity Reference Sites

Umwelt have undertaken a review of the existing performance indicators for the target communities across the Coal & Allied and Glencore sites included in the pilot the Warkworth Extension Project, Mangoola, Mount Owen Mine and Ravensworth Mine. Coal & Allied and Glencore agree that the interim assessment indicates that there is enough commonality between the mines performance criteria and monitoring requirements for it to be feasible to share monitoring sites and information.

The cost of doing this needs to be reasonable and the consultants have been asked to estimate the costs. If the costs are reasonable the next steps will be:

- Completion of the a draft strategy that addresses the typical characteristics of reference sites, recommends candidate reference site location and provides the general guidance required to develop the specific monitoring strategy.
- Review and finalisation of the reference sites strategy.

The following steps would be necessary to implement the strategy, but are not included in the current scope of work for the project:

- Development of the specific monitoring strategy which details the monitoring methodology, regularity and frequency.
- On-ground site selection and commencement of baseline monitoring.

Voids Project

This work has commenced with the consultants beginning work on the literature review and the preparation of the technical note that will identify the information required by the consultants from the member companies.

The high level project timeline is below:

- Technical memorandum - May 2014
- Draft Literature Review - June 2014
- Stakeholder Workshop - July/ August 2014.

FOR DISCUSSION/ COMMENTS

NSW Minerals Council
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Agenda Item 4

PROPOSED GRAZING STUDY PANEL

Issue

Department of Primary Industries is managing the grazing study and proposes setting up a Grazing Study Advisory Panel to assist with decision making during the study.

Background

The role of the advisory panel is to provide support and guidance around the decision making associated with management of livestock on the areas involved in the grazing study. The advisory panel would also provide strategic advice and complementary skills.

It is proposed that decisions which would be made with input from the advisory panel would include:

- When to move livestock
- When to sell or keep livestock.

The panel would allow some level of adaptive management of the study to manage the cattle in accordance with local practices.

The advisory panel also have a role in interpreting what the results mean and how they can be used across the industries they represent. In the case of this grazing study it might also highlight what additional information or research questions need to be answered for the industries.

It is proposed that the advisory board would represent all stakeholders and include:

- The two mine operators.
- The lessees.
- Two representatives from community groups that are represented on the Joint Working Group - Land Management who bring local grazing experience and knowledge.
- State government agencies - Department of Primary Industries and Division of Resources and Energy.
- NSW Minerals Council.

FOR DISCUSSION

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Agenda Item 5

DECEMBER WORKSHOP FEEDBACK

Issue

The December stakeholder workshop brought together the broader stakeholder group of the UHMD to discuss the projects and focus on how to continue to progress and evolve the Dialogue.

Background

As part of the workshop the Joint Working Groups presented the projects and participants were able to provide feedback on those projects. They did this by posing questions and identifying the three most important outcomes of the projects. The workshop provides an important means of checking on the progress and development of the projects with the broader stakeholder group. The report from the workshop has been distributed, but is appended for your reference (Appendix A) (page 9 includes the questions asked about the Land Management projects).

Projects

While many of the questions could be answered simply on the day, others raise issues that need to be addressed through the ongoing development/ implementation of the projects. NSWMC has undertaken an analysis of the feedback on the Land Management projects, which is outlined below, along with recommendations on how the Joint Working Group can address these issues through the projects. The questions were mainly focussed on the Grazing Study and the Beneficial Use of Voids Project.

Grazing Study

- **Management and adaption of the study** - There were a number of good questions asked about how the study would be managed and how adaptations to the study would be decided on. Those questions included
 - “How will the trial be modified for seasonal effects? e.g. poor cattle health?”
 - “Who will make cattle management decisions?”

Agenda Item 4 proposes to form a Grazing Study Panel, which will include representative from the participating companies, Department of Primary Industries, Division of Resources and Energy and two community group members of the Joint Working Group to guide decision making on the project.

- **Limitations of the study** - A question was asked about how the limitations of the study in terms of pre-existing soil quality and land types will be included in the analysis of the outcomes. The focus of the study is about the profitability and sustainability of grazing on mined land. The analogue sites have been chosen to represent to pre-existing land type of the mined lands.

The limitations which existed on the land pre-mining should be accounted for in the analogue. This could also be dealt with by include in the reporting information about the mined sites condition pre-mining where this is available.

- **Lessons learned from the study** - One question related to how the industry more broadly would learn from the study and apply that to rehabilitation practices. This is a very important element of the project, and most of the companies were able to be represented on the recent field trip. The analysis of the results of the project will include learnings for future grazing land rehabilitation, and this is part of the proposal that has been funded by ACARP.

Voids

- **Relevance of the Synoptic Plan for the Upper Hunter Valley** - The Synoptic Plan for the

Upper Hunter is a plan for integrated mine rehabilitation. The aim of the plan is to identify rehabilitation commitments that have been made, and allow companies to plan to integrate their rehabilitation with their neighbours and will existing and planned land uses. For instance it allows a new mine to plan rehabilitation to contribute to a regional conservation corridor.

The plan is currently being updated. This process is being undertaken by Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services, Division of Resources and Energy (DRE). The updating project is in the early stages, and it is understood that this will be broad engagement of stakeholders in the region. Identification of final voids is likely to be included in the plan, although this project is currently moving ahead of the Synoptic Plan.

- **Collaborating with the Water Working Group on the project** - This is important and company representatives from the Water Working Group will be needed to provide information to the consultants and to participate in the workshop. The Joint Working Group could be provided with updates on the project given its relevance to water.

Recommendations

- The Joint Working Group consider the issues above and provide feedback on how these issues can be dealt with through the projects
- Members of the Joint Working Group to raise any other material issues that they identify from the report.

Broader issues - progress of the Dialogue and communications

There were a few recurring themes that came out of the discussion on how to ensure that the Dialogue continues to evolve and progress.

Communication

Almost all of the groups had a clear focus on communicating the results of the Dialogue. There were two reasons for this that came out of the discussion:

- To communicate the results and work of the Dialogue more broadly
- To get more people involved in the Dialogue.

NSWMC is preparing a communications strategy for the Dialogue. The feedback from the Workshop included lots of good ideas on communications and these will be considered when developing the strategy.

Recruitment of new groups

This was a consistent theme of discussion. Recruitment of new groups was thought to be important as it would ensure that there are fresh ideas flowing into the Dialogue and that the most important concerns of the day are being included in the Dialogue.

NSWMC and the member companies will revisit the stakeholder list, and will also follow up current stakeholder groups for suggestions.

Recommendations

- Members of the Joint Working Group provide details to NSWMC of any groups who they think should be approached to join the Dialogue.

FOR DISCUSSION