

**AGENDA
UHMD**

Joint Working Group Water Meeting

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

Thursday 20 October 2016: 9.30am-12.30pm

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Minutes and actions of the previous meeting
3. Update on current projects
4. Hunter River water quality - Discussion with Professor Richard Bush
5. MCA Water Accounting Framework
6. Update on communications initiatives
7. 2016 UHMD Annual Forum
8. Update on Perception Survey project
9. Other business

Attendee List

UHMD Joint Working Group Meeting - Water

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

Thursday 20 October 2016: 9.30am - 12.30pm

Attending

David O'Brien	Glencore
Chris New	Rio Tinto
Chris Quinn	The Bloomfield Group
Julie Thomas	Muswellbrook Coal
James Barben	Yancoal
Ken Bray	Hunter Valley Water Users' Association
Wendy Bowman	Mine Watch
Simon Francis	DPI
Craig Milton	NSW Minerals Council
Greg Sullivan	NSW Minerals Council
Bob Mackie	the resource

Tentative

Apology

Preshan Pillay	BHP Billiton
Jim Morgan	UHMD Community Representative
Ron Fenwick	UHMD Community Representative
Rebekah Gomez-Fort	DPI

Guests

Professor Richard Bush	International Centre for Balanced Use
------------------------	---------------------------------------

DRAFT MINUTES

NSW Minerals Council UHMD – Joint Working Group - Water

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

Thursday 21 July 2016: 1.00pm - 4.00pm

In attendance

Chris New (Chair)	Rio Tinto
Chris Quinn	The Bloomfield Group
Wendy Bowman	NSW Mine Watch
Ron Fenwick	UHMD - Community Representative
Andrew Rode	NSW Minerals Council
Greg Sullivan	NSW Minerals Council
Craig Milton	NSW Minerals Council

Guest

Dr Richard Bush	Centre for Balanced Land Use (University of Newcastle)
-----------------	--

Apologies

Simon Francis	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Neville Hodgkinson	Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group
Sarah Withell	BHP Billiton
Arthur Burns	Hunter Valley Water Users' Association
Adam Gilligan	Environment Protection Authority
David O'Brien	Glencore
James Benson	Anglo American
Preshan Pillay	BHP Billiton
Rebekah Gomez-Fort	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Julie Thomas	Muswellbrook Coal Company Limited
James Barben	Yancoal Australia
Ken Bray	Hunter Valley Water Users' Association
Donna McLaughlin	BHP Billiton

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed attendees and noted apologies.

2. Minutes and actions of the previous meeting

The minutes for the 11 May 2016 meeting were confirmed.

Andrew Rode provided an overview on the progress of actions arising from the 11 May 2016 meeting.

3. Water Resources Map project - Common Ground

Andrew Rode provided an overview of the Common Ground resource developed by the Department of Energy and Resources (DRE) with a brief demonstration of the features and functionality of the site. While most of the JWG - Water group suggestions have been incorporated to the water layers, the NSWMC is still following up on river monitoring locations.

Ron Fenwick also questioned whether the site would accommodate any changes for those with colour vision deficiency issues as it can be hard to distinguish between different layers.

ACTION:

- **NSWMC to follow up on the addition of river monitoring locations to the water layers.**
- **Chris New to follow up with DPI Water to determine what the schedule is for stream flow surveys.**
- **NSWMC to check whether DRE has any customisable functions to enable better display of the layers to those with colour vision deficiencies.**

4. Hunter Bioregional Assessment

The Hunter Bioregional Assessment was noted.

5. MCA Water Accounting Framework

NSW Minerals Council is holding off from publishing the 2014 data until the 2015 report is ready to publish. NSWMC has received all data for the 2015 year and it is expected to be launched around late August 2016, with a full article in the Newcastle Herald and website/social media publications.

6. Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme Review - Discussion with Professor Richard Bush

Professor Richard Bush provided an overview of the Research Centre for Balanced Land Use which he leads at the University of Newcastle. As the position is funded by DRE, DPI and the University of Newcastle, Professor Bush's role is to bring all the departments and industry together to work collaboratively towards sustainable land use. The Chair advised that the Health of the Hunter River is an ongoing issue, especially with regards to the review of the Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme, with the EPA seeking to implement requirements to discharge water.

The JWG - Water is keen for the government to undertake some background work on the salinity and metals concentration in the Hunter River. Professor Bush advised that there are many other groups and industries that rely on the health of the river, so it shouldn't be too difficult to secure funding to look at this in greater detail. It wouldn't require too much investment to get a basic snapshot and Professor Bush advised that he would be happy to look at all these issues through an initial desktop study.

ACTION:

- **Chris New is to invite Professor Richard Bush back to the next meeting of JWG - Water.**

7. Void project

The Voids project was noted.

8. Update on UHMD Communications Initiatives

Andrew Rode updated the JWG on the various UHMD communication initiatives and activities.

UHMD future plans were also discussed which involve a website upgrade, resurveying the community and organising mine tours for Upper Hunter School students in Years 5/6 and Years 9/10. Bob Mackie will provide NSWMC members with a proposal at the next ISC meeting.

Chris New departed to participate in filming of UHMD video at 3.45.

9. Working group performance, relevance and strategic direction

In addition to earlier discussion from actions arising from the previous meeting, the JWG proposed several action items to help improve attendee levels from members.

ACTIONS:

- **That NSWMC undertake a review of past members to confirm their ongoing interest in JWG - Water (especially Muswellbrook Council, Winemakers, Hunter Water Users) and to update the list taking into account any retirements, movements and position changes.**
- **That NSWMC consider a more flexible ad-hoc approach to JWG - Water meetings and hold them on an as-needed basis.**

10. Other Business/Meeting Close

No other business was raised. The meeting closed at 3:50pm.

**Actions arising from meeting on 21 July 2016
UHMD Water Joint Working Group Meeting**

Action	Responsibility	Status
1. Welcome and Apologies		
2. Minutes and actions of previous meeting		
3. Water Resources Map project - Common Ground		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSWMC to follow up on the addition of river monitoring locations to the water layers. 	NSWMC	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris New to follow up with DPI Water to determine what the schedule is for stream flow surveys. 	Chris New	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSWMC to check whether DRE has any customisable functions to enable better display of the layers to those with colour vision deficiencies. 	NSWMC	Completed
4. Hunter Bioregional Assessment		
5. MCA Water Accounting Framework		
6. Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme Review		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris New is to invite Dr Richard Bush back to the next meeting of JWG - Water. 	Chris New	Completed
7. Void project		
8. Update on UHMD Communications Initiatives		
9. Working group performance, relevance and strategic direction		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That NSWMC undertake a review of past members to confirm their ongoing interest in JWG - Water, and update the list taking into account any retirements, movements and position changes. 	NSWMC	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That NSWMC consider a more flexible ad-hoc approach to JWG - Water meetings and hold them on an as-needed basis. 	NSWMC	Completed
10. Other Business/Meeting Close		

UHMD
Joint Working Group Water Meeting – 10 October 2016

Agenda Item 3

UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS

MCA Water Accounting Framework

See Agenda item 5

Engagement with Independent Expert Scientific Committee / Hunter Bioregional Assessment

The Bioregional Assessment Programme (BAP) has released a coal and coal seam gas resource assessment for the Hunter subregion. The Assessment summarises the known coal and coal seam gas resources and developments as at November 2015. It is available for download here:

<http://data.bioregionalassessments.gov.au/product/NSB/HUN/1.2>

The expected release of the Hunter Bioregional Assessment is May 2017.

Water Resources Map Project

Prior to the July 2016 JWG meetings, DRE had prepared a test version of an updated Common Ground mapping platform that includes most of the water layers that the JWG - Water requested. The latest update of Common Ground, which is based on feedback from the mid-year review, is in the final stages of implementation and should be completed in coming weeks. This update will include the new water-related map layers and cadastral boundaries. NSWMC will provide an update to the JWG once received.

For reference, NSWMC provided the following feedback on the water layers:

- That there should be an option where no mineral or coal resources are shown; this is so water and other layers can be viewed without the title overlays.
- For the groundwater layer, it was difficult to know which part is inside the groundwater boundary and which part is outside. Therefore it was recommended that the areas have an internal shading.
- For the groundwater bores, that there be a link in the information section to the more detailed information (if available) i.e. <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/realtime-data/groundwater>
- NSWMC had originally requested that the river monitoring locations be included (including the Hunter Integrated Telemetry System), however unfortunately these were not included. It was recommended that these be included in a later version with a link to the following real-time telemetry data:
http://realtimedata.water.nsw.gov.au/water.stm?ppbm=SURFACE_WATER&rs&3&rskm_org

Beneficial reuse of voids

A series of reports and recommendations examining the beneficial end use of voids was commissioned by NSWMC, with expert mine void practitioner Dr Cherie McCullough of Golder Associates undertaking the review. Dr McCullough investigated void use across the globe and Australia and identified many examples of positive uses for mine voids that could potentially be applied in the Upper Hunter, such as agriculture, horticulture, recreation, entertainment, waste management and irrigation.

The UHMD held a Community Workshop in Muswellbrook in late 2015 which was well attended. The report on the Workshop is attached.

NSWMC has discussed the establishment of a multi-stakeholder voids committee with a long term outlook with the Deputy Secretary DRE. The Deputy Secretary was cautiously supportive of the concept and it is the intention of NSWMC to further test the idea with the other senior bureaucrats and both the Minister for Resources and the Minister for Planning. NSWMC has also discussed the concept of long term planning for final use of voids with the Member for Upper Hunter Michael Johnsen MP who was supportive of the concept and suggested that the UHMD should contact the Department of Premier and Cabinet seeking all

of government support for the idea.

FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

UHMD
Joint Working Group Water Meeting – 20 October 2016

Agenda Item 4

HUNTER RIVER WATER QUALITY - DISCUSSION WITH PROFESSOR RICHARD BUSH

Issue

To progress discussions around studies into Hunter River water quality, Professor Richard Bush has been invited to the meeting to discuss potential approaches and scope to river water quality studies.

Background

Professor Richard Bush is the Global Chair International Centre for Balanced Land Use, University of Newcastle.

The EPA is proposing to implement licence conditions on mines requiring them to monitor the concentrations of metals and metalloids in mine discharge water and the impacts on the receiving environment.

In order to understand the impacts on the receiving environment, there may be a need for studies into the background concentrations metals and metalloids in the Hunter River so that the impact of mine water discharges can be considered in the appropriate context.

Professor Bush will discuss potential approaches to river water quality studies.

FOR DISCUSSION

UHMD
Joint Working Group Water Meeting – 10 October 2016

Agenda Item 5

WATER ACCOUNTING FRAMEWORK

Issue

The first two years of water accounting data have been compiled and preparations are underway to publicly release the data.

Background

All companies have provided their water accounting data for 2015 to NSWMC. NSWMC engaged a consultant to aggregate the data and compile and analyse the range of additional regional water data that is used in the reporting (e.g. dam releases; rainfall; river flows etc)

A summary of the data from 2014 and 2015 is attached. Infographics to visually display the data are being prepared and will be shown at the meeting. There are some minor improvements being made to the 2014 infographics that were presented to the Joint Working Group in the July 2016 meeting. For each year there will be a summary infographic that displays key figures relating to the Hunter River for use in advertising, and a more complex infographic that will be included in on the UHMD website.

It was previously decided to release the 2014 and 2015 data together. Following discussions with the NSWMC Communications Director and Media Director, the publication of the data will follow an approach along the lines of:

- Release of the information as an exclusive to the Newcastle Herald, supported by:
 - A media release.
 - The summary infographic for print media and social media
 - The detailed infographic uploaded on the UHMD web page
- Paid advertising of the summary infographic in the Muswellbrook Chronicle, Singleton Argus and Scone Advocate, shortly after the Newcastle Herald.
- Potential radio opportunities, depending on the level of interest.

As an alternative to the exclusive to the Newcastle Herald, the NSW Minerals Council Media Director has suggested that NBN could be approached about running the story as an exclusive. This would have a much wider audience reach than print media. This opportunity will be looked into further.

A draft media release has been prepared and is attached.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the JWG provide feedback on the 2014 and 2015 Water Accounting Framework results and note the proposed release of the 2014 and 2015 figures.

FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

	2014		2015	
Rainfall				
Rainfall at Scone	487.0 mm		778.5 mm	
Hunter River System Extraction				
	GL	%	GL	%
Water entering the Hunter River System (dam releases, rainfall, runoff)	195.1	100%	471.4	100%
Water that stayed in the river (flow past Singleton)	93.4	48%	366.9	78%
Water extracted and used by farmers, residents and businesses	96.4	49%	100.5	21%
Water used by mining	5.4	3%	4.0	1%
Mining Industry Water Use Balance				
	GL	%	GL	%
Inflows				
Hunter River System	5.4	9%	4.0	5%
Rainfall/Runoff	29.9	48%	46.2	63%
Groundwater*	23.2	37%	21.1	29%
Third Party	3.6	6%	2.3	3%
TOTAL Mine Inflows	62.0	100%	73.6	100%
*Groundwater sourced from Hard Rock Aquifers	21.6	35%	20.0	27%
*Groundwater sourced from Alluvial Aquifers	1.6	3%	1.1	1%
Outflows				
Hunter River System	0.01	0.02%	1.8	3%
Groundwater	1.5	2%	1.7	3%
Third Party	2.3	4%	1.0	2%
Evaporation	26.6	41%	27.4	43%
Entrainment	31.0	48%	28.0	44%
Other	3.2	5%	4.1	6%
TOTAL Mine Outflows	64.6	100%	64.0	100%
Change in mine water storage	-2.6		9.6	
Reuse Efficiency	51%		50%	

DRAFT media release

Upper Hunter mining industry releases first two years of water accounting data

New figures released today show that mining operations used just 1 per cent of the total water flowing through the river system in the Upper Hunter during 2015. 21 per cent was extracted by agriculture, power generation and town water supply, with the remaining 78 per cent flowing past Singleton.

The figures come from the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue water accounting project, with the first two years' data now compiled. The water accounting project was initiated through the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue to gain a better understanding of mining's interaction with water resources in the region and identify opportunities for water management improvements.

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue brings together the mining industry with local residents, businesses, environmental groups and regulators to work together to minimise the cumulative impacts of mining.

All mines in the Upper Hunter have now adopted a standardised water accounting framework developed by the Minerals Council of Australia and the University of Queensland. The framework allows consistent reporting of water coming into mining operations (e.g. from rivers, groundwater and rainfall) and leaving mining operations (e.g. by evaporation, discharges to the river system or contained in coal leaving the site) in terms of both volumes of water and water quality. The project focuses on the Hunter River and its tributaries from Glenbawn Dam downstream to Singleton - where Upper Hunter mines and the major water supply dams are located.

Upper Hunter mines get their water from a variety of sources. In 2015, only 6 per cent of mine water came from rivers and alluvial aquifers, while 90 per cent of their water came from rainfall and runoff captured on mine sites and from lower quality water largely obtained from the coal seams themselves, which has few other uses. Mines must be licenced for any water they take from rivers and groundwater sources.

2015 was a wetter year than average. With the higher river flows came more opportunities for mines to discharge water under the Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme, which ensures river water quality is maintained by only permitting mines to discharge water at times when river flows are high. Even with the higher volumes of mine water discharged to the Hunter River system during 2015, only 1.8 gigalitres of water was discharged during the year - just 0.5 per cent of the total volume of water that flowed past Singleton during the year.

The water accounting project makes the Upper Hunter mining industry a leader in this aspect of water management not only within the mining industry, but across all industries. Water data can now be reliably aggregated across different mining operations to assess the industry's overall water impacts in the region.

The water accounting project has provided the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue members with objective information about mining's interaction with water resources in the region, allowing for a more informed discussion. The industry will collect and report data on an annual basis.

For more information go to www.miningdialogue.com.au.

UHMD
Joint Working Group Water Meeting – 10 October 2016

Agenda Item 6

UPDATE ON COMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVES

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

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

Completed events and activities:

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

Planned activities:

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

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

Broke Vintage Fair 2017	Sun 10th September 2017	Link TBC
Singleton Show 2017	Fri 22nd to Sat 23rd September 2017	Link

SCHOOL BUS TOURS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WEATHER FORECASTING PROJECT VIDEO

Plans are progressing to produce a video promoting the work of the Weather Forecasting Project. Quotes from videographers have been received and are being finalised, Sites for the actual filming of the video are being finalised and Emissions and Health Industry Working Group members have developed the following script/narrative for the video:

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

Mining companies and government regulators recognise that dust emissions from mining activities can be a serious issue if not closely monitored and effectively controlled.

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

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

One achievement of the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue is the consistent use of weather forecast information to reduce or avoid air quality impacts from Upper Hunter mines.

By using weather forecast information, mines plan ahead and make better informed decisions about managing air quality at their operations. If adverse conditions are forecast, measures are put in place to minimise the impact.

Such measures include but are not limited to:

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

The Upper Hunter's mines are committed to minimising dust impacts on the Hunter community. These initiatives contribute to the region meeting some of the highest air quality standards in the world.

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

FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

UHMD
Industry Working Group Water Meeting – 20 October 2016

Agenda Item 7

2016 UHMD ANNUAL FORUM

Issue

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

Background

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

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

Recommendation

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

Annexure 1 - Draft Agenda

Where	Muswellbrook Race Club – Skellatar Park/15 Racecourse Rd, Muswellbrook NSW 2333	
When	Tuesday 6 December 2016, 8.30 for 9am to 3.00pm	
Event Run Sheet		
Time	Topic	Presenter
8:30am	Arrival and networking. Coffee, tea, muffins available	
9:00am	Welcome from MC (10 mins)	Di Sneddon
9:10am	Year in review. Focus on events/activities in the past year (20 mins)	Greg Sullivan, NSW Minerals Council
9:30am	Presentation (30 mins)	Prof. Richard Bush, International Centre for Balanced Land Use, The University of Newcastle
10:00am	Voids project update/or Department of Planning speaker (30 mins)	Department of Planning, mine voids expert
10:30am	Panel discussion - Voids (30 mins)	Professor Richard Bush Mike Kelly, Muswellbrook Chamber President UHMD Chair John Richards, Wayne Bedggood, Mayor, Upper Hunter Shire Michael Johnsen, Upper Hunter MP TBC - Dept. of Planning, Community member from Joint Advisory Steering Committee
11:00am	Break - Morning Tea (20 mins)	
11:20am	Presentation - Rehabilitation Bond Estimation methodology	Dr David Blackmore
11:50pm	Case study - Calculating Rehab Costs using the DRE methodology(30 mins)	Consultant - Andrew Sutton?
12:20pm	UHMD Perception Survey Results Presentation	Ruth McLeod, Hunter Research Foundation
12:50 pm	Lunch (40 mins)	
1:30 pm	Working Group Updates	JWG Chairs - 10 minutes each
2.00 pm	Small group discussion forum - Broader Future Plans for UHMD (30 mins)	In table groups - facilitator at each table
2.30pm	Plenary Discussion - Broader Future Plans for the UHMD (30 mins)	Facilitator
2.55	Summary and wrap up	Facilitator
3.00pm	Close	

UHMD
Joint Working Group Water Meeting – 20 October 2016

Agenda Item 8

Update on UHMD Perception Survey Project

Issue

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

Background

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

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

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

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

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

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

Results of the survey will be presented to all stakeholders at the 2016 UHMD Annual Forum.

FOR INFORMATION

UHMD
Joint Working Group Water Meeting – 20 October 2016

Agenda Item 9

General business

There is no paper for this item