



NSW MINERALS COUNCIL
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AGENDA
NSW Minerals Council

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 12 November 2015: 10.00am-1.00pm

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Confirmation of the minutes and update on actions of the 6 August 2015
3. Simplification of UHMD Minuting Procedures
4. Update on current projects
5. Update on JASC meeting outcomes
6. Voids project
7. MCA Water Accounting Framework
8. Muswellbrook Mining Dialogue Community Day
9. Annual UHMD Workshop
10. Update on UHMD Communications Plan
11. Other business

**Actions arising from meeting on 6 August 2015
UHMD Emissions and Health Joint Working Group Meeting**

Action	Responsibility	Status
1. Welcome and Apologies		
2. Confirmation of Minutes of 8 May 2015		
3. Establishment of Joint Advisory Steering Committee		
4. Presentation from Office of Water Science - Bioregional Assessment Timeframe		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSWMC to circulate Anthony Swirepik's presentation (excluding two timeline slides) to the working group. 	NSWMC	Completed
5. Update on Current Projects		
6. MCA Water Accounting Framework - 2014 results		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSWMC to contact Anthony Swirepik to discuss whether data from the Office of Water Science can be provided. 	NSWMC	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSWMC to action the suggestions made by the working group for displaying and communicating the MCA Water Accounting Framework data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide contextual information to explain why the water discharge figure is low. ○ Provide examples of what may constitute 'other' outputs. ○ Make it clear that the accuracy is limited. ○ Make a GIPA request to State Water for further data. ○ Follow up water use data with Arthur Burns. ○ Request any possibly relevant AGL water information from Alison Crocker. 	NSWMC	Ongoing
7. DRE project - Predictive Mine Water Use Tool		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSWMC to seek clarification from Kylie Hargreaves regarding the Predictive Mine Water Use Tool. 	NSWMC	Ongoing
8. Engagement of the resource and Updating of UHMD Communications Plan		

DRAFT MINUTES

NSW Minerals Council UHMD – Joint Working Group - Water

UMHD Resource Centre, Singleton Town Square Shopping Centre, Singleton

Thursday 6 August 2015: 10.00am – 11.50am

Present

Harry Egan	Peabody Energy
Chris New	Rio Tinto
Anthony Swirepek	Office of Water Science, Department of the Environment
David O'Brien	Glencore
Greg Lamb	The Bloomfield Group
James Benson	Anglo American
Shane Davey	theresource
Bob Mackie	theresource
Adam Gilligan	Environment Protection Authority
Rebekah Gomez-Fort	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Ron Fenwick	UHMD - Individual Contact
Troy Favell	Yancoal
Tony Linnane	NSW Department of Industry, Division of Resources and Energy
Andrew Rode	NSW Minerals Council
Anthony Trimarchi	NSW Minerals Council
Greg Sullivan	NSW Minerals Council

Apology

Wendy Bowman	NSW Mine Watch
James Barben	Yancoal
Bill Collins	The University of Newcastle Australia
Kevin Ruming	NSW Trade and Investment
Julie Thomas	Muswellbrook Coal
Ken Bray	Hunter Valley Water Users' Association

1. Welcome and Apologies

David O'Brien welcomed attendees to the Joint Working Group – Water and noted apologies.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of 7 May 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 May were confirmed.

3. Establishment of Joint Advisory Steering Committee

Greg advised that an Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Joint Advisory Steering Committee (JASC) had been established, comprising three community representatives, three representatives industry and two from local government. The purpose of the JASC is to promote, monitor progress, and provide guidance, advice and oversight on, the operation of the UHMD.

Greg advised that Chair will be David O'Brien (Glencore), and that the other two industry representatives, as well as representatives from the community and local government are yet to be confirmed. It was recommended that the Joint Working Groups and its members provide ongoing advice relating to Dialogue issues to the JASC by contacting its Chair or one of its representatives.

4. Presentation from Office of Water Science - Bioregional Assessment Timeframe

Anthony Swirepik from the Office of Water Science provided a detailed presentation to the working group on progress made on the Bioregional Assessment to date, and agreed to having NSWMC circulate a copy of the presentation to the working group, following deletion of two slides that related to timelines.

ACTION:

- NSWMC to circulate Anthony Swirepik's presentation (excluding two timeline slides) to the working group.

5. Update on current projects

The working group noted the updates on the Water Resources Map Project, Hunter River Water Quality Assessment Project, and Beneficial Reuse of Voids project.

6. MCA Water Accounting Framework - 2014 results

Andrew Rode presented the results of the 2014 MCA Water Accounting Framework.

The working group made a number of suggestions for displaying and communicating the data, including:

- Providing contextual information to explain why the water discharge figure is low.
- Providing examples of what may constitute 'other' outputs.
- Making it clear that the accuracy was limited, e.g. avoiding decimal places for accuracy, and/or providing an accuracy range.
- Making a GIPA request to State Water for further data.
- Following up water use data with Arthur Burns.
- Requesting any possibly relevant AGL water information from Alison Crocker.

Anthony Swirepik advised that the Office of Water Science collected similar data to that presented and suggested that it might be possible to have it included where relevant.

ACTIONS:

- NSWMC to contact Anthony Swirepik to discuss whether data from the Office of Water Science

- can be provided.
- NSWMC to action the suggestions made by the working group for displaying and communicating the data

7. DRE project - Predictive Mine Water Use Tool

Tony Linnane from DRE presented to the working group on the scoping of a predictive water use tool, to be used by the regulator during the planning phase of new mining projects to estimate the quantity of surface and groundwater a mine would require, based on a number of variables.

The working group discussed the proposal and agreed that although considerations by DRE to develop a predictive water use tool appears beneficial at face-value, doing so could present a number of issues of concern:

- The tool may be placed too early in the process (PEA stage) when the information it requires is unavailable.
- The tool may be unnecessary as water considerations are already taken into account by a mine in its feasibility and EIS stages.
- How it will fit within the existing approval process is unclear.
- There is a risk that the tool will create an additional approval hurdle similar to the Gateway process, with potential appeals and delays attached to it.
- The tool appears to be inconsistent with the general approach of the Integrated Mining Policy which aims to streamline approval processes.

The working group agreed that the DRE should consider these issues in greater detail, and that NSWMC may wish to raise the matter with Kylie Hargreaves from DRE for clarification.

ACTION:

- NSWMC to seek clarification from Kylie Hargreaves regarding the Predictive Mine Water Use Tool.

8. Engagement of *theresource* and updating of UHMD communications plan

Greg advised that the UMHD Communications Plan is being reviewed and updated with a view to better promoting the work and profile of the UMHD. Mr Shane Davey and Mr Bob Mackie from *theresource* has been engaged by the NSW Minerals Council to prepare and undertake many of the actions identified in the Plan; and noted that the venue for the meeting, the UMHD Resource Centre, has been provided by *theresource*.

Shane provided an update on work undertaken to-date, including building stronger relationships with local print-media and radio stakeholders, so as to build 'a more visible face' for the UHMD in the local area. It was agreed that Shane and Bob will report back to the UMHD on progress made on a monthly basis.

The working group discussed the merits of, and expressed support for, the initiative, with John Drinan suggesting that the communication plan should seek to have an educative focus, so as to educate the community on mining-related issues as well as promote the UHMD. The working group agreed with this suggestion.

The working group noted the importance of keeping Shane and Bob apprised of UHMD-related developments, and acknowledged that input/feedback from the various JWG's would be of great assistance to the development of communications initiatives. The working group agreed that each JWG should include a standing item at the end of each meeting to consider and provide input/feedback to *theresource*,

9. Other Business

Andrew advised the working group that the review of the Hunter River Water Sharing Plan Regulation was released that morning.

The meeting closed at 11.50am.

**NSW Minerals Council
UHMD Joint Working Group Water Meeting – 12 November 2015**

Agenda Item 3

SIMPLIFICATION OF UHMD MINUTING PROCEDURES

Issue

NSWMC is suggesting that minuting procedures be simplified, to focus resources more strongly on progressing Dialogue actions, projects and events.

Background

The UHMD currently has 9 working groups/committees, each require minutes to be taken, totalling a minimum 27 sets of minutes required per year. NSWMC believes that this task of minute preparation unnecessarily draws resources away from the more important aspects of the Dialogue - such as progressing actions, projects and events.

NSWMC proposes to simplify the minuting process by only including any key issues, decisions made and any actions. The minutes for the joint working groups will however have more detail than those of the industry groups.

The industry working groups, the Industry Steering Committee (ISC) and Joint Advisory Steering Committee (JASC) have endorsed this proposed approach.

RECOMMENDATION

- NSWMC recommends that this Joint Working Group endorse the approach being taken to simplifying minutes.

FOR DISCUSSION

**NSW Minerals Council
UHMD Joint Working Group Water Meeting – 12 November 2015**

Agenda Item 4

UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS

Beneficial reuse of voids project

Refer to Item 6.

MCA Water Accounting Framework

Refer to Item 7.

Engagement with Independent Expert Scientific Committee / Hunter Bioregional Assessment

The Bioregional Assessment Programme (BAP) released a data register for the Hunter sub-region. It has also been working with mining companies on its groundwater model.

Anthony Swirepik from the Office of Water Science provided a presentation to the JWG - Water on progress on the BAP made to date.

Water Resources Map Project

No update.

Hunter River Water Quality Assessment Project

NSWMC is still awaiting EPA's review of the Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme (HRSTS) before scoping the project. EPA has advised that the review is currently in the 'approvals process'.

FOR NOTING

NSW Minerals Council
UHMD Joint Working Group Water Meeting – 12 November 2015

Agenda Item 5

UPDATE ON JASC MEETING OUTCOMES

Issue

The Joint Advisory Steering Committee (JASC) held its first meeting on 1 October 2015.

Background

The membership of the JASC was recently finalised, it comprises nine representatives:

- Three (rotated) representatives from the eight mining companies represented on the ISC:
 - David O'Brien (chair) - Glencore
 - Sarah Withell - BHP Billiton
 - Garry Bailey - The Bloomfield Group
- Three stakeholder representatives:
 - John Drinan - Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group
 - Jim Morgan - Wybong Action Group
 - Gill Eason - Singleton Business Chamber
- Two representatives from local government:
 - Mark Ihlein - Singleton Council
 - Joshua Brown - Muswellbrook Council (temporary representative prior to recruitment of a new senior manager)
- One representative from NSWMC to provide secretariat support.

Outcomes of first JASC meeting

The JASC met on 1 October 2015. Key points of discussion and recommended actions following from the meeting included:

- Making some minor revisions to the Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct.
- A suggestion to remind NSW Government on its commitments to an air quality alert in the Upper Hunter.
- A letterbox drop to inform people of the existence of the Dialogue.
- Various feedback in relation to the Communications Plan, particularly the messaging section.
- Consideration of whether the community should be re-surveyed to see if the issues identified in 2010 are still present or whether perceptions have changed. It was suggested that this be undertaken post enacting the Communications Plan.
- Endorsement of the suggestion that the social impacts and infrastructure working group be discontinued, and revived on an 'as needs' basis. It was suggested that the successes of that group be celebrated through media promotion.
- Accepted a non-advocacy, apolitical role for the UHMD.
- Accepted the UHMD playing only a supportive role in any economic diversification initiatives. The committee noted that there is an economic diversification workshop in Club Singleton on 10 November 2015.
- Suggested that Michael Johnsen MP speak at the UHMD Annual Workshop.
- Endorsement of the suggestion that minutes be simplified, however key points raised at JASC meetings would still need to be included.
- A suggestion that a DRE speaker present at the UHMD Annual Workshop on rehabilitation regulations. An update on the synoptic plan was also requested.
- Potential for an official launch of the UHMD Resource Centre in the week following the Annual Workshop.

FOR INFORMATION

NSW Minerals Council
UHMD Joint Working Group Water Meeting – 12 November 2015

Agenda Item 6

BENEFICIAL REUSE OF VOIDS

Issue

The voids project is progressing well with the near finalisation of the void water quality report and the organisation of a voids workshop on 25 November 2015.

Background

Update

Clint McCullough from Golder Associates presented to the JWG - Water and JWG - Land Management in August. NSWMC considers that it was a successful event. It provided a range of information that significantly improved the audience's understanding of void related issues and opportunities. Clint's visit included a radio interview with Power FM that was also considered a success.

Water quality review

Golder Associates has drafted a Upper Hunter voids - water quality report. Although the report identified a trend towards increased salinity in the voids analysed, in Dr Clint McCullough's presentation to the JWGs, he advised that this would not limit its potential end uses (such as boating, fishing and aquaculture) and that ultimately the water in the void would never be as saline as the ocean.

The report makes recommendations for improved void water quality monitoring procedures and will be provided to the working group once finalised.

In response to the recommendations, the IWG - Water has requested that Golder Associates provide NSWMC with a proposal to develop a guidance note around void water quality monitoring procedures.

Voids workshop

A voids workshop is currently being organised for the afternoon of 25 November 2015, as part of the Muswellbrook Mining Dialogue Community Day (refer to Item 8). The purpose of the workshop is to present void literature research information, provide information on how voids are regulated in NSW, assess their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis), and identify void reuse opportunities for the Upper Hunter.

Invitations will be limited to around 35 non-industry participants. It is expected that the program for the workshop will entail:

- 1:00pm-1:10pm - Welcome and introduction by NSWMC
- 1:10pm-1:40pm - Presentation by Clint McCullough
- 1:40pm-2:15pm - Presentations on regulation of voids by DPE / DRE. (TBC)
- 2:15pm-2:30pm - Afternoon tea.
- 2:30pm-3:45pm - Split into group discussions (details TBC - tentatively to involve a Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats (SWOT) analysis, listing of beneficial reuses, presentation of findings, prioritisation of SWOT and reuse options).
- 3:45pm-4:00pm - Summary and close.

RECOMMENDATION

NSWMC recommends that the JWG - Water provide any suggestions for the agenda and content of the workshop.

FOR DISCUSSION

**NSW Minerals Council
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Agenda Item 7

MCA WATER ACCOUNTING FRAMEWORK

Issue

A consultant has been engaged to assist with the preparation of content required to publish the 2014 results MCA Water Accounting Framework.

Background

NSWMC has engaged Gilbert & Associates (G&A) to assist with the publication of MCA Water Accounting Framework results for 2014. G&A has been verifying the information provided, sourcing and calculating relevant supporting comparative information, developing relevant graphs and providing contextual wording and summaries to inform the main infographic and other graphs.

Their draft will be presented at the meeting.

FOR DISCUSSION

**NSW Minerals Council
UHMD Joint Working Group Water Meeting – 12 November 2015**

Agenda Item 8

MUSWELLBROOK MINING DIALOGUE COMMUNITY DAY

Issue

A Muswellbrook Mining Dialogue Community Day is being organised to promote the UHMD and its projects and activities.

Background

There has long been a desire to improve promotion of the Dialogue's activities and projects. The Industry Steering Committee (ISC) has also identified a need to strengthen engagement with the Muswellbrook region. Therefore a UHMD promotion event is being staged at the Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre on Wednesday 25 November 2015.

The draft program is:

- **7.00 - 7.30am – Arrival and networking**
- **7.30 - 9am – Sit down buffet breakfast** for Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry members and invited guests. The capacity of the invitation is around 60 people. UHMD chairman John Richards will address the breakfast gathering at 8am in the main gallery.
- **9am - 1pm – Radio station 2NM will host a live broadcast** of the Hunter Valley Today show from 9am to 1pm from the Gallery. Host Steve Cenatiempo will interview 10-12 guests as nominated by the UHMD during the live broadcast.
- **9am - 12pm - mine tours and UHMD displays.** A UHMD marquee will feature displays on projects as well as interactive environmental monitoring displays.
- **10am - Tom Farrell Institute presentation** in gallery.
- **11am - 1pm – barbecue lunch**
- **1pm - 4pm – void workshop** in gallery with Dr Clint McCullough.

RECOMMENDATION:

NSWMC recommends that the working group provide any suggestions for the program.

FOR DISCUSSION

**NSW Minerals Council
UHMD Joint Working Group Water Meeting – 12 November 2015**

Agenda Item 9

ANNUAL UHMD WORKSHOP

Issue

NSWMC is preparing for its major UHMD workshop event at the end of this year.

Background

Notwithstanding earlier notifications, the annual workshop will now be held at Club Singleton (on 9 December 2015) - to preserve the annual rotation of the event between Singleton and Muswellbrook.

NSWMC intends to hold a workshop in a similar format to the previous two years, (refer to draft agenda - attached). A project gallery will also be on display.

This year, the workshop will be facilitated by Di Sneddon (former editor of the Singleton Argus). Di is quite familiar with the Dialogue and mining related issues generally.

It would be appreciated if working group members can volunteer to assist in the following capacities:

- One industry volunteer (nominally the Chair) - provide an update on working group activities in 2015.
- One non-industry volunteer - Presenting to the audience on 'what's to come' for the working group in 2016. i.e. Hunter River Water Quality Assessment project, Hunter Bioregional Assessment products, void water quality monitoring guidance note, Common Ground water updates, MCA Water Accounting Framework results for 2015, and any other suggested outcomes following the day's suggestions.
- One or two industry volunteers - hosting the gallery session.
- One or two non-industry volunteers - hosting the gallery session.

RECOMMENDATION:

NSWMC requests that the working group members:

- Provide any suggestions for the workshop's agenda and discussion points, speakers or gallery collateral.
- Volunteer to present 'what's to come in 2016' and/or host a gallery session.

FOR DISCUSSION

2015 UHMD Annual Workshop - Program (draft)

Time	Topic
9.30am	<p>Session 1 - Welcome and Scene Setting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Richards, The Bloomfield Group • Dave O'Brien, Glencore
9.55am	<p>Session 2 – Context Setting Short panel discussion to explain the current environment in the Upper Hunter from a mixture of perspectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Johnsen MP, Upper Hunter Shire Council • Mike Kelly, Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce • Jim Morgan, Wybong Action Group • John Richards, The Bloomfield Group
10.35am	<p>Morning Tea and Gallery Walk</p>
11.00am	<p>Dialogue status Presentations from joint working groups on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality • Land Management • Water
11.30am	<p>External status Presentation and discussion on key external areas impacting mining and the Dialogue issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation regulation - DRE and DPE • Bruce Davenport - Singleton Council Environmental Sustainability Strategy / Action Plan • DPE - Consultation guidelines and/or Integrated Mining Policy update
12.30pm	<p>Lunch</p>
1.15 pm	<p>Session 4 - Priority Issues and Actions Plenary session to identify and list existing issues and outstanding topics. Discuss different types of potential responses.</p>
1.30pm	<p>a) <u>Identify Issues</u> In table groups, identify new issues</p>
2.00pm	<p>b) <u>Action Planning</u> Select a topic groups of interest and work together to prioritise actions</p>
3.00 pm	<p><u>Summary</u> Each group to report back with recommendations</p>
3.15 pm	<p>Thank you and Close</p>

**NSW Minerals Council
UHMD Joint Working Group Water Meeting – 12 November 2015**

Agenda Item 10

UPDATE ON UHMD COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Issue

The UHMD Communications Plan has been updated.

Background

Theresource was engaged to conduct a review of the existing Communications Plan and develop an updated plan. *theresource* was specifically asked to provide ideas in the following areas:

- Cost-effective options for proactively promoting the work of the Dialogue.
- Promoting and strengthening the UHMD brand within the Upper Hunter community.

The draft plan features an expanded range of communication activities which are divided into short and medium term initiatives. In addition the objectives of the plan have been more clearly articulated, together with a series of suggested performance measures.

The draft plan has been presented to the JASC, ISC, IWGs and will be considered by the EOC on 11 November 2015. Pending the EOC's endorsement of the plan, a copy will be provided to the working group at the meeting.

FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION