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## **AGENDA**

### **NSW Minerals Council**

### **UHMD Joint Working Group Meeting - Water**

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

**Thursday 6 November: 10.00am-1.00pm**

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1. Welcome and apologies
2. Confirmation of the minutes and update on actions of the 31 July 2014 meeting
3. Update on current projects
4. 2013 MCA Water Accounting Framework - draft results
5. MCA Water Accounting Framework communications plan
6. DRE's commitments to developing the water resources map
7. NSW Government groundwater monitoring initiative
8. December Workshop
9. Other business

**NSW Minerals Council  
UHMD Joint Working Group Meeting Water – 11 November 2014**

Agenda Item 2

**DRAFT  
MINUTES OF THE UHMD JOINT WORKING GROUP - WATER  
MEETING DATED 31 JULY 2014**

**ACTIONS ARISING**

Action	Responsibility	Progress
<b>1. Welcome and Apologies</b>		
<b>2. Confirmation of Minutes of 8 May 2014</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSWMC to invite broader stakeholders to the following December workshop, inviting them to also join working groups of interest at that time.</li> </ul>	<b>NSWMC</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>3. Presentation from AGL</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circulate AGL presentation slides and link to AGL's website.</li> </ul>	<b>NSWMC</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<b>4. Update on current projects</b>		
<b>5. Results of Stage 2 MCA Water Accounting Framework and presentation concepts</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circulate Coal &amp; Allied and Glencore presentations to the Joint Working Group.</li> </ul>	<b>NSWMC</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Form a working group to develop and review presentation concepts out of session. Working group members to include Rebekah Gomez-Fort, Wendy Bowman, Ken Bray, Ron Fenwick, Chris New, Dave O'Brien, Claire Doherty, David Frith and Andrew Rode.</li> </ul>	<b>MCA Water Accounting Framework Working Group</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a plan to present MCA Water Accounting Framework concepts through three different communication avenues: editorials, a website and by presenting to stakeholder groups.</li> </ul>	<b>NSWMC</b>	<b>Refer to Item 5</b>
<b>6. Presentation of Common Ground mapping system</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circulate the Division of Resources and Energy presentation to the Joint Working Group.</li> </ul>	<b>NSWMC</b>	<b>Completed</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSWMC to facilitate a meeting between DRE and the Office of Water to communicate the requirements of the water resources map and ensure that the Office of Water provide the necessary data to DRE.</li> </ul>	<b>NSWMC</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSWMC to send Guy Fleming details of NSW Government's Location Intelligence Committee.</li> </ul>	<b>NSWMC</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<b>7. Reviewing the progress of the UHMD and new projects</b>		
<b>8. Other business</b>		

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### **Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue UHMD Joint Working Group Meeting - Water Singleton Visitor Information Centre, Singleton – 10am Thursday 31 July 2014**

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#### **Present**

David O'Brien (Chair)	Glencore
James Benson	Anglo American Metallurgical Coal
Chris New	Rio Tinto – Coal & Allied Industries
Greg Lamb	Bloomfield Collieries
Chris Knight	Muswellbrook Coal
Troy Favell	Peabody Energy – Wambo Coal
James Barben	Yancoal – Ashton Coal Operations
Wendy Bowman	NSW Mine Watch
Rebekah Gomez-Fort	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Ken Bray	Hunter Valley Water Users' Association
Ron Fenwick	UHMD - Individual contact
Alison Crocker	AGL
Guy Fleming	NSW Trade and Investment - Division of Resources and Energy
Andrew Rode	NSWMC
Claire Doherty	NSWMC
David Frith	NSWMC
Brad Deane	NSWMC

#### **Apologies**

Bill Collins	The University of Newcastle
Steve Clarkson	Singleton Council
Steve Eccles	Local Land Services
Morgana Gidley-Baird	BHP Billiton – Mt Arthur Coal
Bruce Whitten	Hunter Valley Water Users' Association
Arthur Burns	Hunter Valley Water Users' Association

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#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

David O'Brien welcomed attendees of the Joint Working Group - Water and apologies were noted.

#### **2. Confirmation of the minutes and update on actions from the 8 May 2014 meeting**

The minutes of the 8 May 2014 meeting were confirmed. Andrew Rode provided an update on the actions from the meeting. Bill Collins was not present to provide an update on his discussions with the EPA about the ACARP proposal.

#### **3. Presentation from AGL**

Alison Crocker - Community Relations Manager at AGL presented to the working group on AGL's activities in the Upper Hunter.

Alison suggested that a tour with interested members could be arranged.

#### **ACTION:**

- Circulate AGL presentation slides and link to AGL's website.

#### 4. Update on current projects

##### IESC project / Hunter bioregional assessment

Andrew Rode advised that the Hunter Bioregional Assessment has commenced. Companies advised that they had made initial contact from the Bioregional Assessment Programme (BAP) team in relation to providing data for the assessment.

Some contextual statements, which are the first products of the bioregional assessments had been published for some of the other bioregions.

##### Hunter River Water Quality Assessment

Andrew Rode advised that the timing for release of the Review of the Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme had been pushed back to September or October 2014.

#### 5. Results of Stage 2 MCA Water Accounting Framework and presentation concepts

##### Update on progress for Stage 2 MCA Water Accounting Framework

Each mining company provided an update on progress on stage 2 of the MCA Water Accounting Framework, which was due on 30 June 2014. BHP Billiton Mt Arthur Coal, Anglo American, Glencore, Bloomfield and Coal & Allied have implemented stage 2. Ashton Coal has a draft report, which will be finalised in the following week. Wambo Coal is behind on its timeframe, but has commenced work on it. Muswellbrook Coal advised that due to their current financial circumstances, they would not be able to implement the Stage 2 operational model in this financial year.

##### Coal & Allied presentation of MCA Water Accounting Framework Stage 2 results

Chris New presented to the working group Coal & Allied's findings from undertaking Stage 2.

##### Glencore presentation of MCA Water Accounting Framework Stage 2 results

Dave O'Brien presented to the working group Glencore's findings from undertaking Stage 2.

##### Development of MCA Water Accounting Framework presentation concepts

Andrew Rode presented some concepts for presenting MCA Water Accounting Framework data.

The working group made a number of suggestions for presenting the data:

- The data should be supported with a contextual statement describing the Hunter Catchment system, the salinity trading scheme, rainfall over the period etc.
- Consideration should be given to combining the data or presenting the data separately for each mine.
- To provide basic graphics on a website.
- To provide a summary on an annual basis.
- By way of a pie charts.
- Provide more complex information on a website.
- Focus should be on stage 1 (input-output) results to understand interaction of mines with the environment.
- Comment on quality of water used by mines.
- Provide data in context i.e. X% usage compared to overall water availability. For example, in comparison to flow of water in Hunter River.
- Benchmark performance across sites to see how companies are performing. However sites are very different and use water differently, and this would be difficult to articulate.
- Present the data through three avenues: editorials, website and presentations to stakeholder groups.

#### **ACTIONS:**

- Circulate Coal & Allied and Glencore presentations to the Joint Working Group.
- Form a working group to develop and review presentation concepts out of session. Working group members to include Rebekah Gomez-Fort, Wendy Bowman, Ken Bray, Ron Fenwick,

Chris New, Dave O'Brien, Claire Doherty, David Frith and Andrew Rode.

- Develop a plan to present MCA Water Accounting Framework concepts through three different communication avenues: editorials, a website and by presenting to stakeholder groups.

## **6. Presentation of Common Ground mapping system**

Guy Fleming - Team Leader Geospatial, Geoscience Information at NSW Trade and Investment, Division of Resources and Energy (DRE) presented to the working group on DRE's 'Common Ground' mapping project. \

Common Ground will be launched soon, and there is an opportunity to include water layers into later versions of the mapping tool to create a water resources map.

The working group suggested that the Common Ground platform should ideally have its own separate web page for a Hunter Water Resources Map. Guy suggested that a staged approach to developing the map be taken by adding water layers and information as it becomes available.

Guy advised that DRE was already discussing with the Office of Water the inclusion of some water layers. The working group suggested that the NSW Minerals Council facilitate a meeting with DRE and the Office of Water to communicate the specific requirements of the Hunter Water Resources Map.

The working group suggested that it was important that the information on the map is not overly complex.

It was important that more data was made publicly available. It was suggested that DRE be involved in the NSW Government's Location Intelligence Strategy.

### **ACTIONS:**

- Circulate the Division of Resources and Energy presentation to the Joint Working Group.
- NSWMC to facilitate a meeting between DRE and the Office of Water to communicate the requirements of the water resources map and ensure that the NSW Office of Water provide the necessary data to DRE.
- NSWMC to send Guy Fleming details of NSW Government's Location Intelligence Committee.

## **7. Reviewing the progress of the UHMD and new projects**

Claire Doherty provided an overview of how the industry believed that the Dialogue should continue to progress and be of value, including by taking three steps:

1. Committing to the completion of current projects.
2. Communicating more broadly and strategically about the successes of the Dialogue.
3. Reviewing the progress of the Dialogue with participants through workshops to be likely held in October 2014.

## **8. Other business**

No other business.

## **9. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Thursday 6 November 2014.  
The meeting closed at 12:20 pm.

**NSW Minerals Council  
UHMD Joint Working Group Water – Thursday 6 November**

Agenda Item 3

**UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS**

**MCA Water Accounting Framework (MCA WAF)**

See items 4 and 5.

**IESC Project / Hunter Bioregional Assessment**

NSWMC has been liaising with the Bioregional Assessment Programme (BAP) to streamline the data request process.

The industry members have been providing any non-commercially sensitive data that the BAP team has been requesting, in order to facilitate completion of this project.

**Water Resources Map Project**

See item 6.

**Hunter River Water Quality Assessment Project**

The working group is still awaiting EPA's review of the Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme (HRSTS), which has again been delayed - to mid November 2014.

The final outcomes of the review will result in a revised Regulation governing the Scheme, which will be released as a draft and be on public exhibition for approximately one month. Following consultation and receipt of feedback, the Regulation will be finalised.

Recommendations, including any further research required, will be outlined in the final review report. Once the recommendations for further research are known, we will begin discussions with the EPA about an appropriate role that the industry can play in any further work.

**FOR INFORMATION**

**NSW Minerals Council  
UHMD Joint Working Group Water – Thursday 6 November**

Agenda Item 4

**2013 MCA WATER ACCOUNTING FRAMEWORK - DRAFT RESULTS**

This paper is draft and confidential to the Joint Working Group.

**NSW Minerals Council**  
**UHMD Joint Working Group Water – Thursday 6 November**

Agenda Item 5

**MCA WATER ACCOUNTING FRAMEWORK COMMUNICATIONS PLAN**

**Issue**

The MCA Water Accounting Framework Working Group has met and provided feedback on a draft plan to communicate the results of the Framework. The second draft of the plan is presented to the Joint Working Group in this paper.

**Background**

Update on implementation

- *Stage 1 - Input-output results for 2013* - All mines have implemented Stage 1 of the framework. NSWMC has collated input-output data for the 2013 calendar year (or best available estimates) from all companies. This information is presented in Item 4.
- *Stage 2 - Operational Model (e.g. reuse and recycling)* - Wambo Coal is still working through implementation of Stage 2. Muswellbrook Coal has put the implementation of the project on hold. All other companies have implemented Stage 2.

Reporting timeframes

It is proposed to report the data from the MCA WAF annually.

Not all companies have a full 12 months of data for the 2013 calendar year and therefore best available estimates have been used for three companies. Reporting/communication will be restricted for the 2013 calendar year results, and will take place through the Joint Working Group, December workshop and stakeholder meetings.

Public annual reporting will commence in 2015. Two companies report on a 30 June financial year, while the other six companies report on a calendar year. The MCA WAF Working Group advised that it would be best to get all companies to report on a calendar year basis. As a result Mt Arthur and Muswellbrook Coal have agreed to run additional reporting to allow calendar year reporting which will commence in 2014. The UHMD reporting and communications will be done largely through aggregate information and case studies / examples. Links to detailed company data will also be provided.

Communication Plan and the MCA WAF sub-group

At the UHMD Joint Working Group - Water meeting on 31 July 2014, it was agreed to form a sub-group to work on the development of a communications plan for the MCA WAF reporting. The MCA WAF sub-group members are: Wendy Bowman, Ken Bray, Claire Doherty, Ron Fenwick, David Frith, Rebekah Gomez-Fort, Chris New, David O'Brien and Andrew Rode.

A Draft Communications Plan was presented to the MCA WAF subgroup and has been updated in response to feedback received - refer to **Appendix A**.

MCA WAF sub-group - feedback on the Draft Communication Plan

The following actions were identified by the JWG - Water representatives:

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Progress</b>
NSWMC to consult with State Water to identify water use by different industries in the Upper Hunter.  Update: State Water provided a Hunter Valley Water Balance Report for 2012/13, but this did not identify water use by different industries.	<b>NSWMC</b>	<b>Completed</b>
NSWMC to split mines' groundwater allocations (and use) into alluvial groundwater and deep aquifer groundwater.  Update: Refer to Appendix A for updated figure.	<b>NSWMC</b>	<b>Completed</b>
NSWMC to liaise with State Water to determine flow in the Hunter River in 2013.  Update: State Water provided a Hunter Valley Water Balance Report for 2012/13, which summarised flows in the Hunter River at Greta. Hunter River flows for other locations were identified through the NSW Office of Water.	<b>NSWMC</b>	<b>Completed</b>
NSWMC to develop a graph showing mining industry water use by the water quality category.  Update: Refer to Item 5 of new figure.	<b>NSWMC</b>	<b>Completed</b>
NSWMC to present water use figures with an appropriate contextual comparison, such as number of swimming pools or the proportion of the water supply dam's capacity.  Update: This will be developed for the 2014 MCA WAF results.	<b>NSWMC</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
Industry Working Group - Water to discuss how the Stage 2 operational model information should be presented.  Update: Companies to provide operational efficiencies (reuse and recycling efficiency).	<b>Industry Working Group - Water</b>	<b>Completed</b>
NSWMC to consider the development of an explanatory video as part of the communication plan.  Update: This will be considered for the 2014 MCA WAF results.	<b>NSWMC</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
NSWMC to update MCA Water Accounting Framework communications plan.  Update: Refer to Appendix A for updated communications plan.	<b>NSWMC</b>	<b>Completed</b>

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- The joint working group approve the MCA Water Accounting Framework Communication Plan.

**FOR DECISION**

## **APPENDIX A - Draft MCA Water Accounting Framework Communication Plan**

### **Actions**

The MCA Water Accounting Framework (MCA WAF) data will be communicated to the Upper Hunter Community, on an annual basis, by undertaking the following actions:

- **Collect, collate and present the data** in a visually appealing and understandable format, communicating its main messages in an appropriate context.
- **Publish the data** on publicly accessible channels.
- **Provide a detailed presentation of the data** to key stakeholder groups.

### Collection and collation of data

Input-output data will be collated to collectively determine the industry's water inputs (e.g. groundwater, rainfall and runoff, extraction from the river) and water outputs (e.g. evaporation, entrainment in coal/tailings, seepage into groundwater, discharge into surface waters).

The NSW Minerals Council will publicly report the MCA Water Accounting Framework data on an annual basis and in 2015 the mines will have a full set of input-output data for the 2014 calendar year which will be sufficiently accurate and reliable to report publicly.

Surface water and groundwater inputs will be compared to licensed allocations for the mining and other industries/uses. NB: The comparison data from the NSW Office of Water is based on the status of water licences on 3 May 2013.

### Reporting of the data

It is proposed that the presentation of the data will have three elements:

- Presentation of the primary data from the MCA WAF
- Presentation of the additional data from external sources to provide context and assist readers to understand the results
- A context statement for the Upper Hunter that will provide readers with information to understand the environment of the region and particulars relevant to the reporting years (eg climatic conditions).

It is proposed to provide this information in a detailed form in an UHMD MAC WAF Annual Report. The annual report will become the primary source and elements of the annual report will then be used:

- On the website - with links to the annual report and detailed company data
- In editorial content
- On social media
- In presentations
- In fact sheets.

### Contents of the report and presentation of the data

Infographics (charts, pictures etc) will be used where possible to enhance the messages behind the data and analogies to common and well understood water use will be used to provide context. For example, water use by the Upper Hunter mining industry could be compared to the number of Olympic sized

swimming pools, proportion of the storage dam being used and/or consumption of drinking water in Newcastle.

*Contextual statement*

The input-output data will be supported by a contextual statement to provide the background on the water resources of the region as well as any conditions that have an impact on the management of those resources. This will include:

- Description of the geographical terrain.
- Catchment details.
- Climatic conditions during the reporting period.
- Background information on water policy and rules applicable to the facilities.

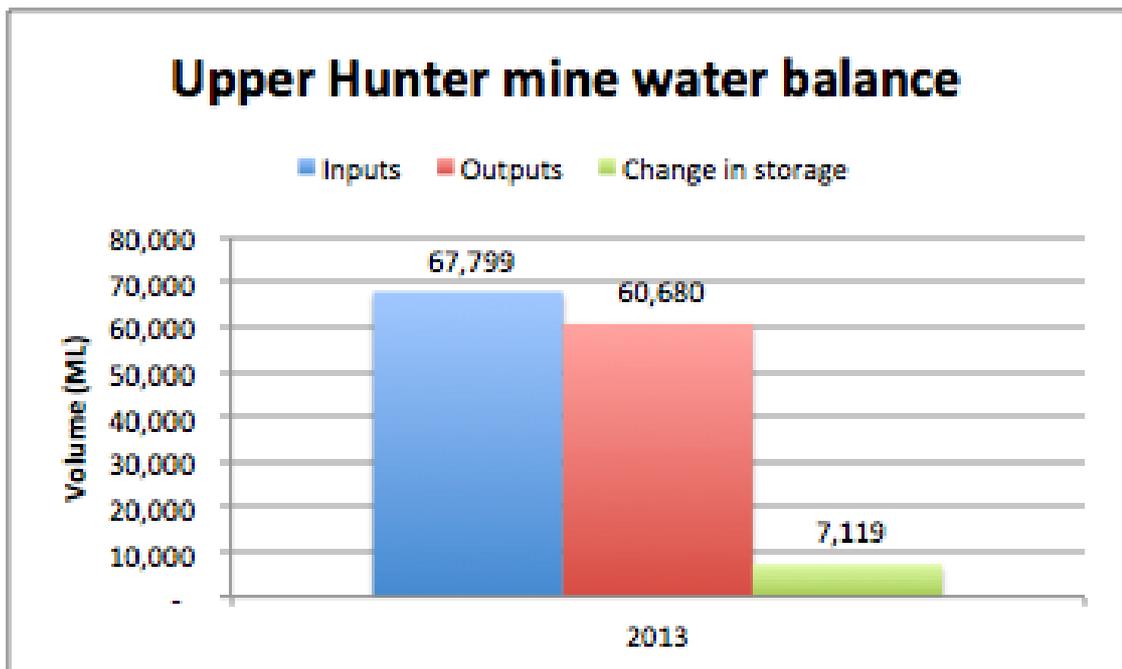
This information will be predominantly sourced from mines' water balance model contextual statements.

*Primary data reporting*

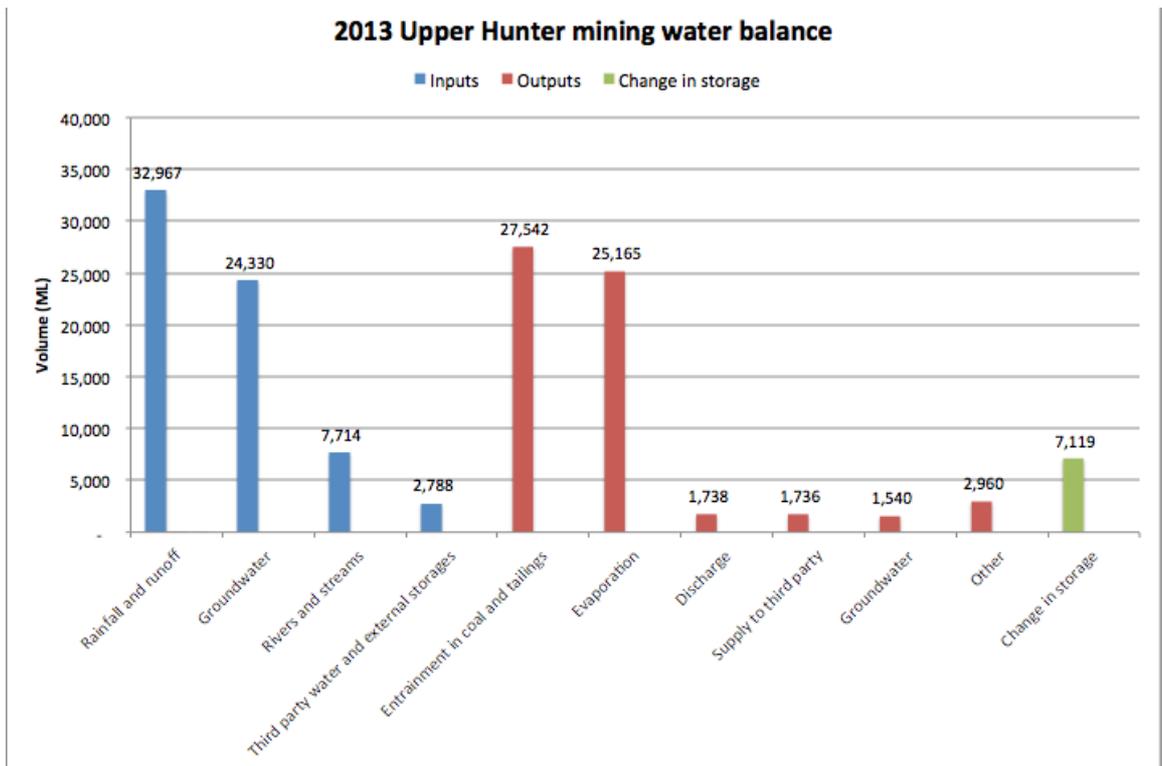
The input-output data (stage 1) will be presented using graphs and pie charts which may need to be collated in a professional infographic, and represent the following (NB: all figures are representative only):

- Inputs to (water use sources) and outputs from (water destinations) the Upper Hunter mining industry. The graphs will also show changes in internal storage (Figure 1 and 2)
- Pie chart representation of inputs and outputs (Figures 3 and 4)
- Water quality of inputs and outputs (Figures 5, 6 and 7).

**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**

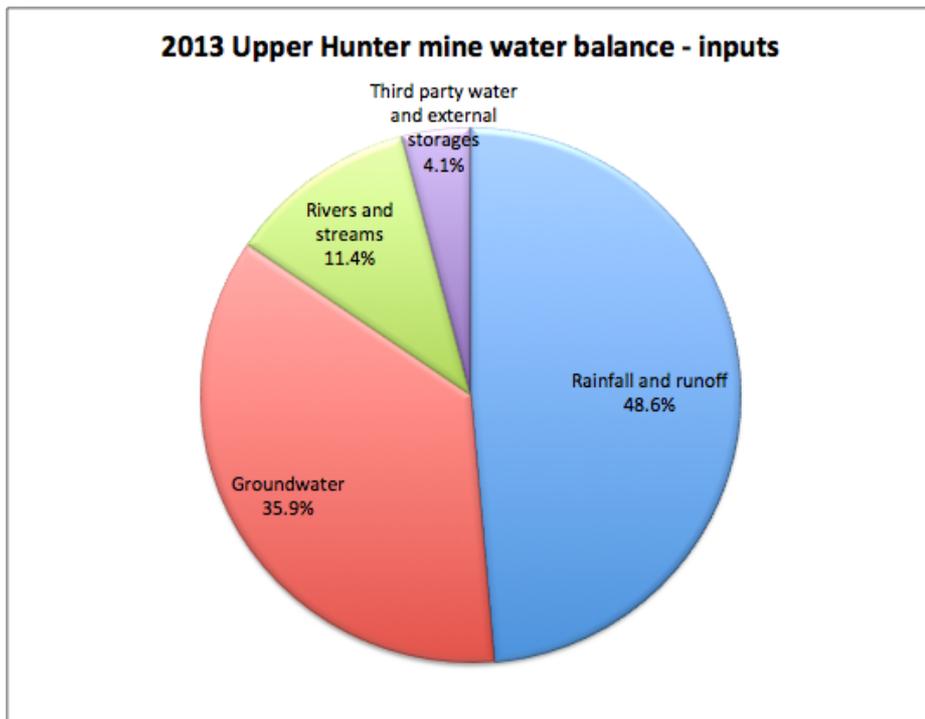


Figure 4

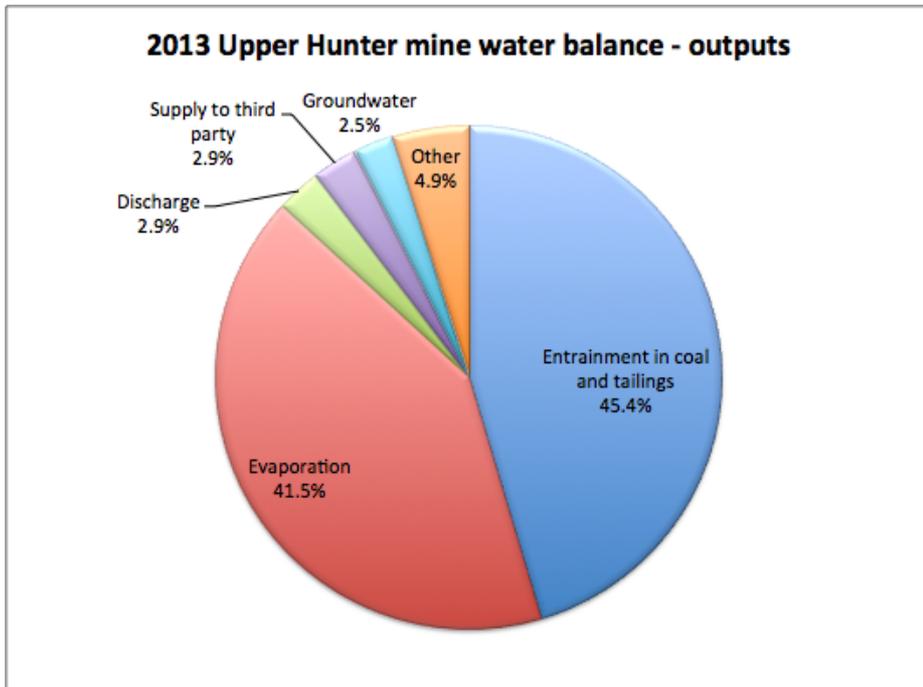


Figure 5

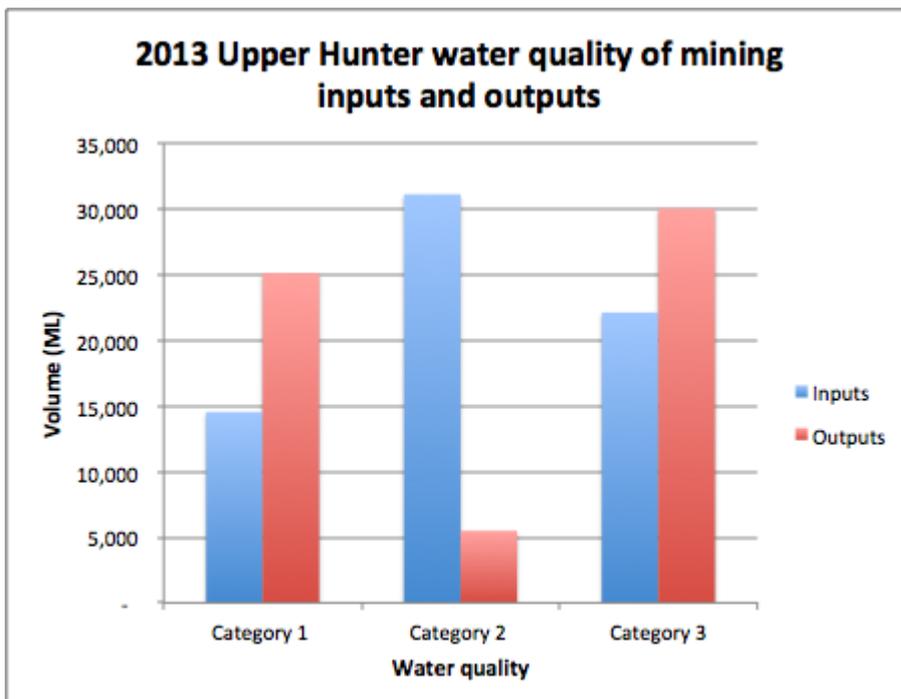


Figure 6

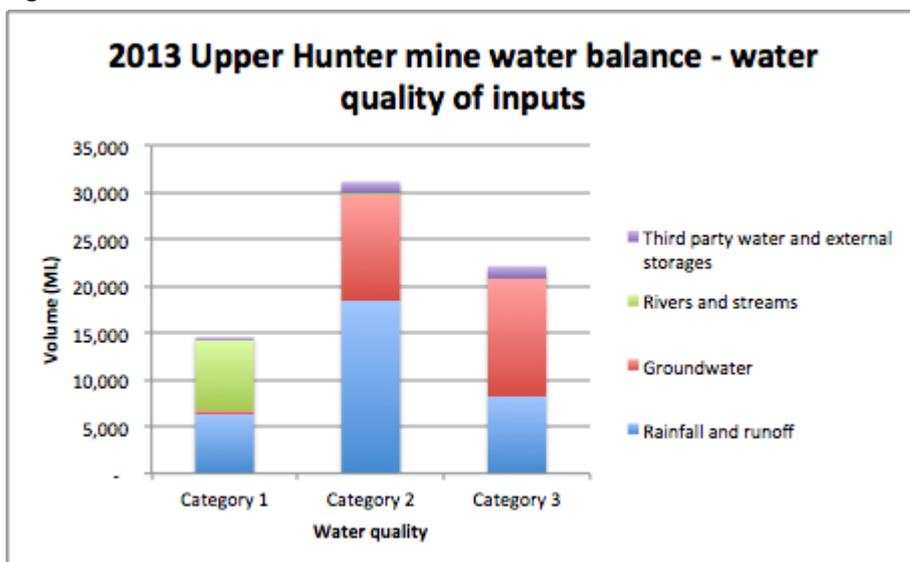
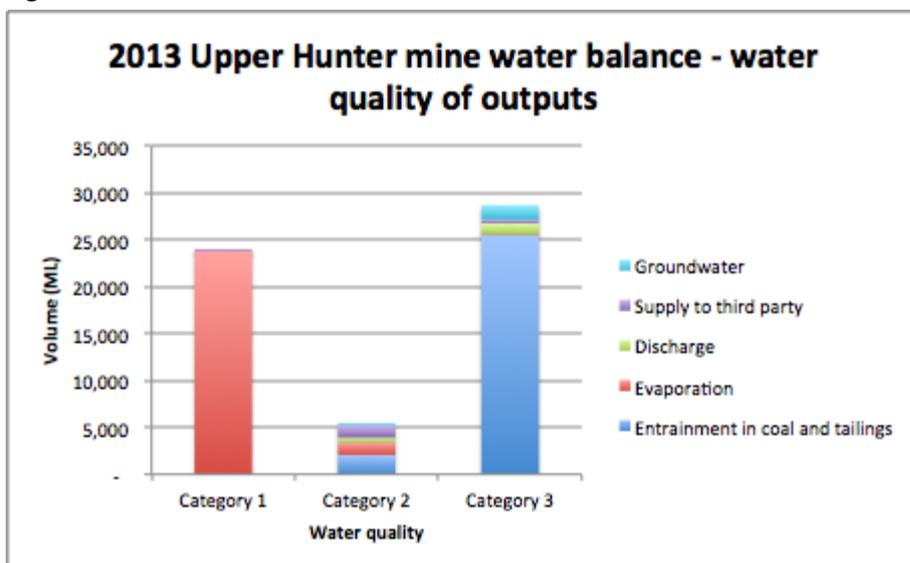


Figure 7



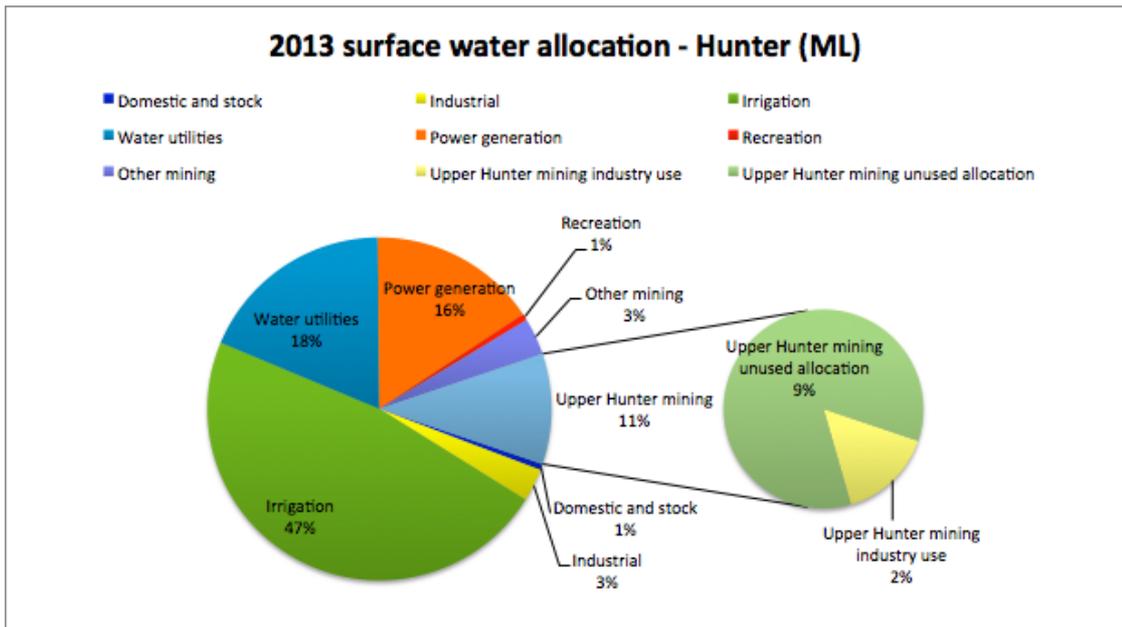
*Secondary (contextual data reporting)*

It is proposed to provide the following secondary analysis of the data using additional information from public sources to provide greater context to the MCA WAF data and provide a richer picture to readers:

- Surface water use (input) by the mining industry, in comparison to mining industry's allocation and other industry's allocations (Figure 8)
- Groundwater use (input) by mining industry, in comparison to mining industry's allocation and other industries' allocations (Figure 9)
- Surface water allocation volume versus groundwater allocation volume (for context) (Figure 10)
- Compare the mining industry's water extraction and discharge from the Hunter River with flow in the Hunter River (Figure 11).

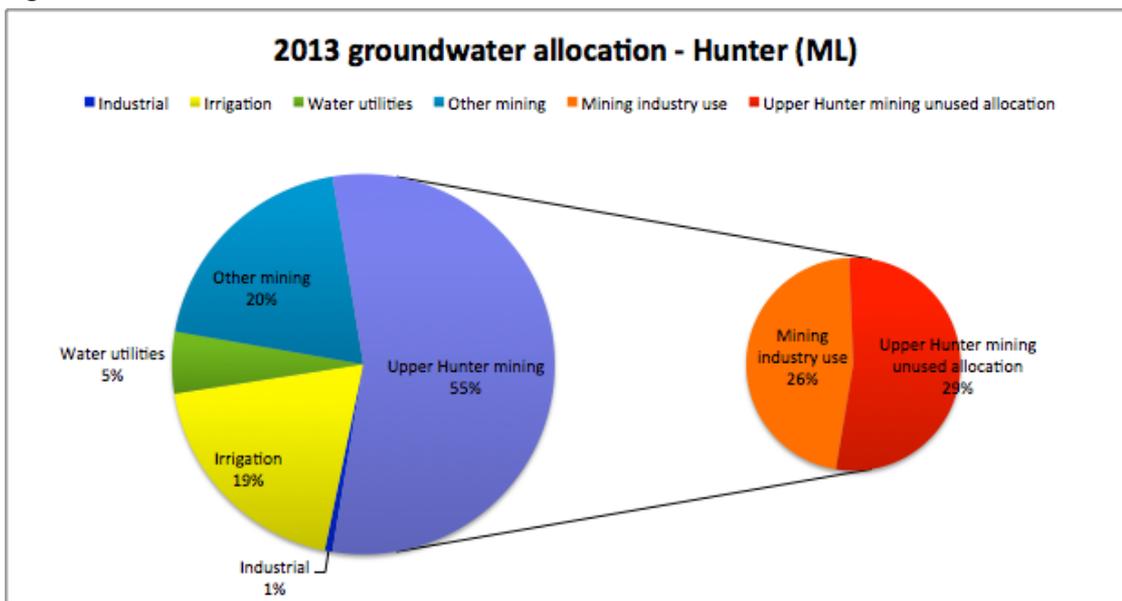
- Water balance of Hunter Valley (Regulated River - between Glenbawn and Glennies Creek storage dams and Greta, NSW) (Figure 12).

**Figure 8**



NB: Water allocation information is based on status of water licences provided by the NSW Office of Water on 3 May 2013. The “Hunter” includes the entire Hunter Catchment but excludes Newcastle. The values for “Other mining”, “Upper Hunter mining” and “Upper Hunter mining unused allocation” have not yet been calculated and shown in the graph for the purposes of discussion only. The “Upper Hunter” is the area of Singleton, Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter LGAs.

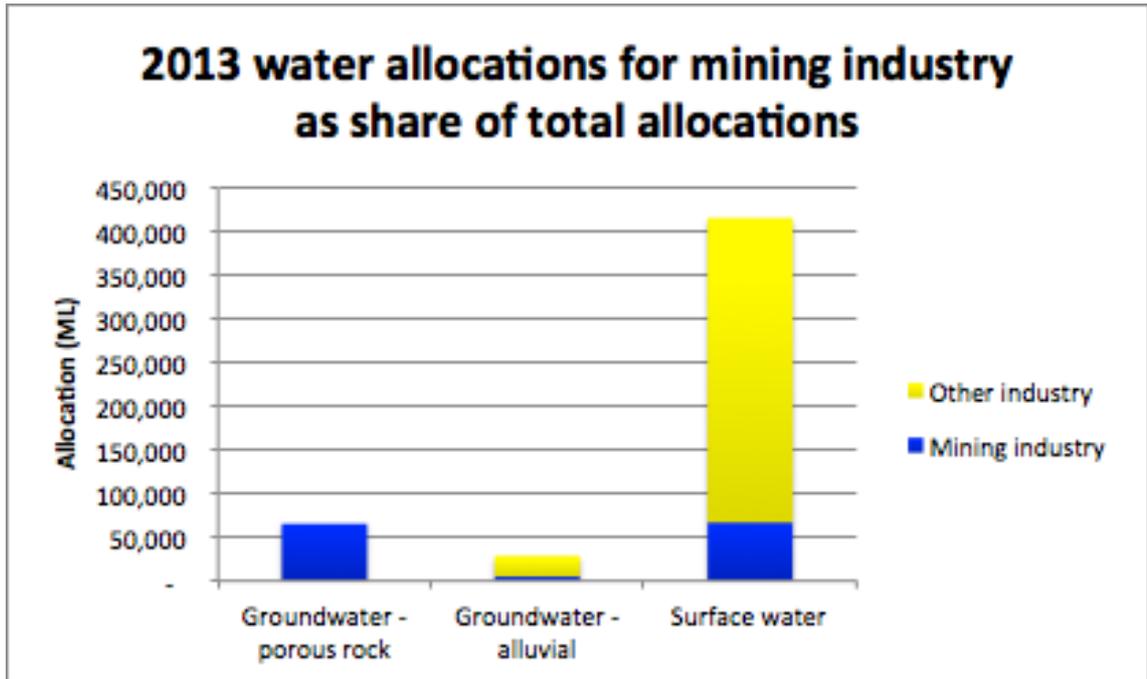
**Figure 9**



NB: Water allocation information is based on status of water licences provided by the NSW Office of Water on 3 May 2013. The “Hunter” includes the entire Hunter Catchment but excludes Newcastle. The values for “Other mining”, “Upper Hunter mining” and “Upper Hunter

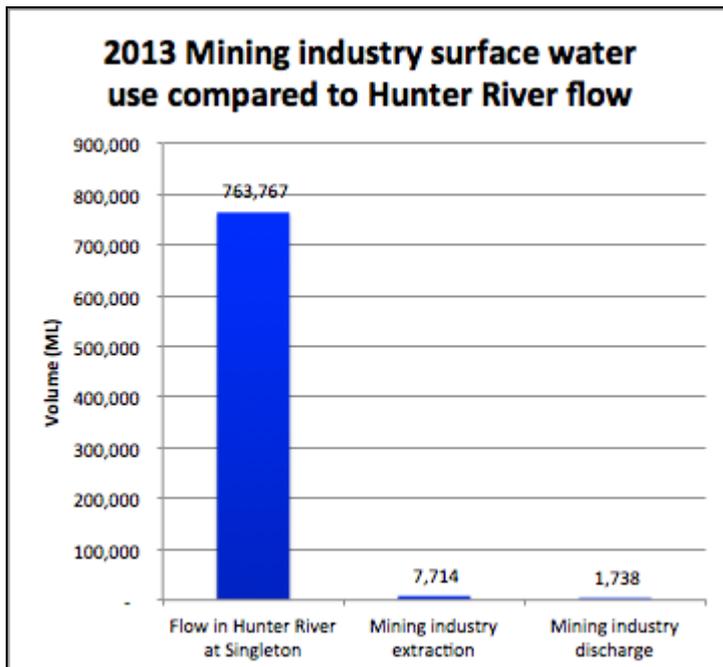
mining unused allocation” have not yet been calculated and shown in the graph for the purposes of discussion only. The “Upper Hunter” is the area of Singleton, Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter LGAs.

Figure 10



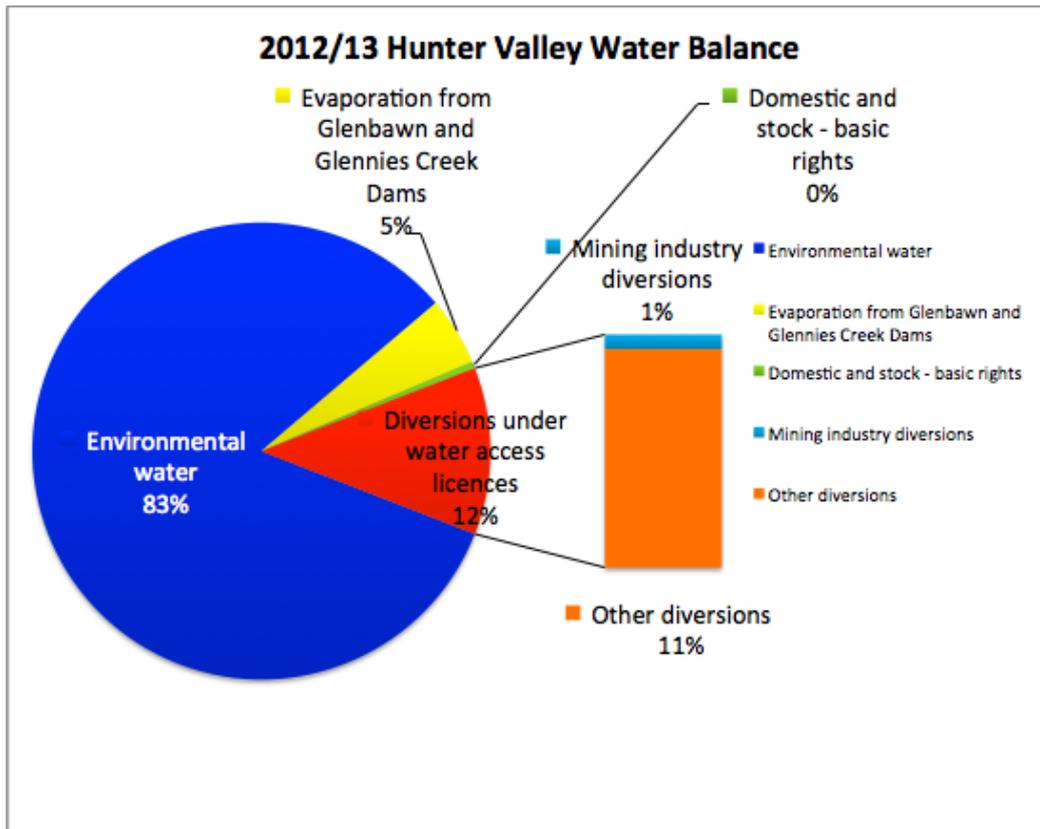
NB: This figure assumes that all 'Category 1' water quality groundwater inputs are sourced from alluvials.

Figure 11



Source: Hunter River flow from NSW Office of Water, 2013 'discharge volume' at site no. 210001 - Hunter River @ Singleton <http://realtimedata.water.nsw.gov.au/water.stm>

Figure 12



NB: Mining industry diversions are based on 2013 calendar year data, but is compared to overall water diversions for 2012/13.

Source: State Water Corporation, Hunter Valley Water Balance Report 2012/13

#### Presentation of Stage 2 results

Stage 2 involves development of an operational model at each mine, which describes the flows internal to the operational facility i.e. the flows between the storages, water using tasks and treatment plants. The operational models allow mines to determine where water is used within their sites, and calculate overall water recycling and water reuse efficiencies.

The results from Stage 2 will be presented via:

- The annual MCA WAF report that includes:
  - *Aggregate company data and report on initiatives that result* - while this is not currently available it has always been discussed as one of the substantive outcomes of the reporting.
  - *Case studies / examples* - Highlighting responses to the stage 2 model by identifying the high value responses from participating companies. That is, not everything companies are doing in response, but those areas of most interest / highest priority. This is likely to include commentary about water reuse and recycling on-site. The collated report could also compare water use per tonne of coal extracted at different sites and determine the proportion of water being reused across industry.
- Provision of links to individual company reports - this would provide detailed data.

### *Accuracy of data*

The report and other collateral including online, will provide a clear statement that not all of the input-output data is directly measured. Some is estimated and some is simulated. Each is assigned a high, medium or low confidence level. It will be made clear in the presentation of the data the limited accuracy of the information.

### Communication of data

The primary annual report and elements from it will be communicated through a number of different channels.

### *Digital media*

The UHMD website will be the primary digital channel for communication of the data. Other forms of social media will be used to drive traffic to the website.

A link to the annual report and an overview of the aggregate data for the Upper Hunter (i.e. graphs and charts, contextual statement, stage 2 report) will be published on the [www.miningdialogue.com.au](http://www.miningdialogue.com.au) website.

NSWMC proposes that summary input-output data will be supplemented with detailed company results, in the form of a table, with links to comprehensive company reports to also be provided.

The UHMD newsletter and NSWMC social media channels including Twitter and the World Class Miners Facebook accounts will be used to drive traffic to the results on the website.

### *Traditional media*

NSWMC will seek editorials in local media about the MCA WAF results, via a NSWMC media release. The media release would outline:

- Brief background on UHMD
- Description of MCA Water Accounting Framework, and why this is a useful initiative for the mining companies / community
- Description of key results
- Presentation of one or more graphs
- Brief commentary on stage 2 findings
- Inclusion of a link to the website.

Potential newspapers/editorials to publish the information include:

- Singleton Argus
- Muswellbrook Chronicle
- Hunter Valley News
- Maitland Mercury
- Coalface magazine.

### *Direct community/stakeholder engagement*

The information from the annual report will be presented to interested stakeholder/community groups. Presentations of this type will be tailored to the level of experience and knowledge of the group (ie a

presentation to the Hunter Valley Water Users' Association would include much greater detail than to a service club).

The following groups would be approached to offer to provide a detailed presentation:

- Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group
- UHMD Stakeholders (Annual December Workshop)
- Hunter Coal Environment Group
- Community Consultative Committees
- Singleton, Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter Councils
- Hunter Valley Water Users' Association
- NSW Farmers Association.

*MCA WAF YouTube Video*

The potential for a video to be developed that steps through a PowerPoint presentation with a voice-over commentary, will be explored. This could be supplemented with some site based filming, showing how water is extracted, used, reused and exits.

**Schedule of Actions**

<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
November 2014	Draft presentation of 2013 data.	NSW Minerals Council / MCA WAF Working Group
End November 2014	Final presentation of 2013 data.	NSW Minerals Council
3 December 2014	Presentation of 2013 data to UHMD Annual Stakeholder Workshop.	MCA WAF Working Group
2015	Collation and publication of 2014 input-output data.	NSW Minerals Council
2015	Presentation of 2014 data to interested community/stakeholder groups.	MCA WAF Working Group

**NSW Minerals Council**  
**UHMD Joint Working Group Water – Thursday 6 November 2014**

Agenda Item 6

**DRE'S COMMITMENTS TO DEVELOPING THE HUNTER WATER RESOURCES MAP**

**Issue**

Trade and Investment, Division of Resources and Energy have committed to host/include the water resources map layers on the Common Ground platform.

**Background**

Update on progress

At the previous Joint Working Group meeting (31 July 2014), Guy Fleming from the Division of Resources and Energy (DRE) presented the Common Ground mapping system that DRE is developing.

The working group agreed that the water resources map could be delivered through the Common Ground initiative, rather than a stand-alone mapping system. Following a suggestion by the working group to coordinate information sharing between the Office of Water and DRE, NSWMC hosted a meeting with these two government agencies to ensure that Common Ground supports a number of water related mapping layers.

NSWMC has also received the locations of surface water discharge points across NSW from the EPA and provided these to DRE. NSWMC has also provided DRE with the Upper Hunter mines' in-stream monitoring point locations.

The Common Ground initiative is currently awaiting internal DRE approval prior to its public release. In the meantime DRE is progressing with incorporating water layers provided to DRE onto the mapping platform. It is aiming to have the following mapping layers available for the initial release:

- Upper Hunter mining water monitoring sites.
- Coal mine water discharge points.
- NSW water catchment areas.

DRE has advised that there are some challenges associated with incorporating automated data (regularly updated data such as borehole data) from the Office of Water. It would require considerable design effort to make them work within the Common Ground context and interface design standard and they would need to be incorporated in a later version of Common Ground. NSWMC will be liaising with DRE to determine a suitable solution that would not affect the overall usability of Common Ground.

Summary of DRE commitments

DRE has committed to incorporating water layers that are of relevance for the Hunter Water Resources Map, as previously scoped, on Common Ground. Some of these water layers will be provided for the whole of NSW, and not just the Hunter. The timing of these actions is dependent upon both internal approvals at DRE in releasing Common Ground and also overcoming technical issues with incorporating automated data from the Office of Water, which NSWMC will be discussing with DRE.

DRE has also committed to developing a site link which focuses on water resources in the Hunter as a pre-loaded feature.

**FOR INFORMATION**

**NSW Minerals Council**  
**UHMD Joint Working Group Water – Thursday 6 November**

Agenda Item 7

**NSW GOVERNMENT GROUNDWATER MONITORING INITIATIVE**

**Issue**

On 19 August 2014, the NSW Government announced a new “framework that will map, monitor and protect groundwater resources across NSW”<sup>1</sup>.

**Background**

The NSW Government’s *Groundwater Baseline Project* will map and monitor groundwater in real-time, and analyse the location and quantity of water being extracted by different industries (including mining).

The program is being introduced first in the Gunnedah, Gloucester and Clarence Moreton basins, but it this will also later be implemented in the Upper Hunter .

The monitoring information will be used by the NSW Government to “identify threats, tackle the causes and prevent future problems.” New monitoring bores will also be installed across the key basins and real-time data from these bores will be published on the NSW Office of Water website.

This adds to the existing NSW Office of Water monitoring stations (more than 5,000) that measure, in real-time, the quality and quantity of water in rivers, streams, groundwater and dams within NSW.

**Key parts of the Groundwater Baseline Project**

The project components can be summarised as:

- Detailed mapping and baseline data – demonstrating the water resources used by key industries in each basin
- Community information package – a series of educational videos and information materials on how water in each basin is used
- Additional monitoring bores will be installed.

Further information about the initiative is accessible via

<http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Groundwater/Water-Monitoring-Framework/NSW-Groundwater-Baseline--Project/NSW-Groundwater-Baseline-Project#key>

**FOR INFORMATION**

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<sup>1</sup> NSW Government 2014, Kevin Humphries MP and Anthony Roberts MP, Media Release - “Protecting NSW’s Precious Water Resources”, 19 August 2014.

**NSW Minerals Council**  
**UHMD Joint Working Group Water – Thursday 6 November 2014**

Agenda Item 8

**ANNUAL UHMD WORKSHOP - 3 DECEMBER 2014**

**Issue**

This year it is planned to use the Annual UHMD December Workshop to review the progress of the Dialogue and other initiatives, reassess the key issues and decide on possible next steps for the UHMD.

**Background**

A group of industry representatives and community group representatives met on 23 October 2014 to plan the Annual UHMD Workshop. Participants were John Drinan and Neville Hodkinson (Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group), Jim Morgan (Wybong Action Group), Gill Eason (Singleton Chamber of Commerce), Garry Bailey (Bloomfield - Rix's Creek), David O'Brien (Glencore) and Troy Favell (Peabody).

It was agreed that this year the workshop should be used, to take stock of where we are as an industry and community and the progress of the Dialogue and other initiatives in addressing the concerns about cumulative impacts, but review the state of the industry and the community and what are now the priority issues and actions we need to take.

The Workshop program is continuing to be developed, but at the meeting on 23 October it was agreed that it should contain the following elements:

1. Set scene for Dialogue
2. Review the current state of the industry, community and business in the Upper Hunter
3. Review progress on the issues:
  - a. Dialogue achievements, actions
  - b. Actions external to UHMD
4. Identify priority issues
5. Identify Dialogue actions, including joint advocacy.

As with last year's Annual Workshop, it was agreed that the best way of illustrating the progress of the projects is to have some brief presentations, but augment these with a "gallery", a space where each joint working group would have the opportunity to present their projects and discuss the projects and answer questions.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- Members of the joint working group provide feedback ways to illustrate the progress of the projects.

**FOR DISCUSSION/ DECISION**