



Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

IN THIS EDITION

NEW GROUP FOR ECONOMY

The Dialogue has expanded its focus with a new Joint Working Group focusing on strategies to strengthen the local economy

SPREADING THE WORD

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue is hitting the road to communicate its message across the community

FAREWELL TO GILL EASON

Dialogue stalwart reflects on her time as valued voice for the community

SCHOOL IN AT MINES

The School Mine Tours Program continues to roll across the Upper Hunter

REHAB IS TOP PRIORITY

Surveys show rehab strategy is issue of most importance for community

Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

Unit 8 First Floor
Town Square Centre
159 John Street
Singleton NSW 2330

miningdialogue.com.au



FORUM MEANS BUSINESS

COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY COME TOGETHER TO PLAN FUTURE

Opportunities for local businesses will be in the spotlight when community and mining comes together at the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue's Annual Forum on November 20.

The forum will feature a major networking session where business people can talk directly to the procurement departments of Upper Hunter mining companies. The 90-minute networking session will be free and give local business people a fantastic opportunity to access the industry's procurement experts.

The Dialogue brings together local miners, community representatives, business leaders, environmental groups, regulators and other local industries to identify, discuss and address challenges and impacts of mining in the Upper Hunter.

A key focus of this year's forum – to be held at the Muswellbrook Race Club – will be a morning networking and information exchange session where participants will be able to learn about the Dialogue's key themes, issues and projects, including:

- Local procurement and purchasing information from mining industry partners to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) understand how to access opportunities in



the local mining sector;

- Key Dialogue environmental projects covering land management and rehabilitation, air quality emissions and health and water quality;
- An update on the School Mine Tours Program and virtual reality technology demonstrations and;
- Synoptic Plan update on long term post-mining land uses opportunities in the Upper Hunter.

The forum will be part of a live broadcast of Hunter Valley Today on Radio 2NM. Spaces for the forum are limited; participants should register their interest in attending via email to info@nswmining.com.au by Tuesday, November 13.

Full details of the forum are available at www.nswmining.com.au/dialogue/events

BUSY TIME FOR DIALOGUE

WELCOME TO THE UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE'S LATEST NEWSLETTER.

“ The Dialogue has been busy over the past few months working with the community and mining industry to make life in the Upper Hunter better for all.

We've formed two new working groups: the Joint Economic and Social Development Working Group which will focus on opportunities for local businesses and the Communications Working Group which will help implement our Communications Strategy and we've restructured our other working groups to allow better focus on their strategies.

The Dialogue has also been on the road visiting local groups to communicate its message to the wider community and our School Mine Tours Program continues to give Upper Hunter students tours through working mines.

Sadly, this month we also wish a fond farewell to one of the Dialogue's community stalwarts Gill Eason. I hope you enjoy reading our latest newsletter; please give us your feedback either via email on info@nswmining.com.au or visit our new Facebook page. ”

Dave O'Brien,
Chairman
Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue



Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

DIALOGUE EXPANDS ITS FOCUS

NEW GROUP WORKS ON STRENGTHENING THE UPPER HUNTER ECONOMY

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue has expanded its focus with the creation of an Economic and Social Development Working Group.

The new working group is made up of members representing local business, councils and the mining industry and is focusing on matters important to the local business community such as procurement opportunities within the mining industry and strengthening the local economy.

The Dialogue will continue to focus on important environmental projects and issues relating to air quality monitoring, water use and land management, however, feedback has also highlighted the need to also focus on economic and social issues as well, including how to improve opportunities for local businesses that want to work with mining operations.

The Dialogue was established in 2011 by the region's miners in response to community concerns about infrastructure and services, mine rehabilitation, water and air quality.



Members of the new Economic and Social Development Working Group at the group's inaugural meeting in October.

The Dialogue is a collaborative effort between local miners, community representatives, business leaders, environmental groups, regulators and other local industries.

It aims to address community priorities by understanding and prioritising concerns and then working together to develop and implement solutions.

Over the past seven years the Dialogue has developed a range of projects including working together to secure more public money for local

infrastructure, dust mitigation practices, and scientific trials on how to best restore mining land for cattle grazing and other uses once mining is finished.

The creation of the new Economic and Social Development Working Group coincides with a realignment of the Dialogue's organisation which includes the formation of the Communications Working Group and the consolidation of the Joint Working Groups into a single "environment" focused group covering all Air Quality, Water and Land Management projects.

HITTING THE ROAD TO SPREAD THE WORD

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue has hit the road to communicate its message to the wider community and key stakeholders.

Over the past few months, Dialogue members have been meeting face to face with representatives of community, business, industry, environmental and other groups to update them on the Dialogue's activities.

As well as providing an opportunity to explain the workings of the Dialogue, the presentations have also allowed valuable

feedback from groups which may otherwise have not had a current voice in the Dialogue.

The initiative is one element of the Dialogue's refreshed Communications Strategy which also includes interactive displays at community events and shows, engagement with traditional and social media, newsletters and the creation of a Communications Working Group.

Groups can register their interest in having a Dialogue presentation at info@nswmining.com.au

THE UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE IS NOW ON FACEBOOK!

The Dialogue launched its Facebook page in September and you can now find us at www.facebook.com/UPPERHUNTERMININGDIALOGUE

We'll be rolling out content including background information on the Dialogue and its projects as well as details and images from our popular School Mine Tours Program and other current projects, events and activities.

Visit us on Facebook – and don't forget to like us!





Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

FAREWELL TO GILL DIALOGUE AN 'OUTSTANDING SUCCESS' STORY

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue brings community and the mining industry together in an "outstanding success" story, according to Dialogue stalwart Gill Eason.

Gill was reflecting on her time and work with the Dialogue – which started with the UHMD's inception, if not before – as she and husband Peter contemplate packing the possessions accumulated over 35 years of living in Singleton.

With a move to the warmer climes of Queensland imminent, Gill this month tendered her resignation from the Dialogue's Joint Advisory Steering Committee.

It was a resignation sadly accepted but with huge gratitude for the work and effort Gill put into the Dialogue over the past years, according to Dialogue Chairman Dave O'Brien.

"Gill has been a great voice for the community from the Dialogue's very start," Mr O'Brien says. "She has promoted the community's concerns but also listened with the community's best interests at heart.

"She has been a fantastic contributor – I will personally miss her and I know all of the people involved in the Dialogue will miss her as well. The Dialogue thanks her for her huge contribution and we wish her and Peter all the very best."

For her part, Gill believes the Dialogue has had many achievements.

"Importantly it has increased awareness of the 'real' facts as opposed to what is reported or said," She says. "It has given people the real story of what's happening with mining without the emotions; just the facts.

"And, it has created a much better relationship between community, business and mining." Gill remembers a good relationship between community and mining wasn't

always the case; in fact a strained relationship was what prompted her to get involved.

Although, as President of the Singleton Business Chamber, she was already involved with conversations around the growing issues with the mining industry, the real momentum for the formation of the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue happened in 2010 with public meetings to discuss the issues.

"I was there at those original meetings; there was a lot of people, the Singleton Civic Centre was busy," she remembers.

"GILL HAS BEEN A GREAT VOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY"

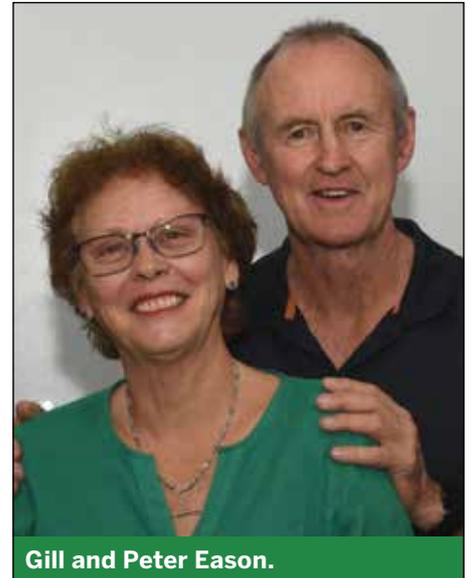
"There had started to be pushback regarding mining development. A lot of the issues were environmental such as air and water quality issues, but also traffic was bad, there was no room at hotels and rents were getting very high.

"Many businesses were getting tired of the issues including the drain on small business employers as their employees migrated to the higher paying mining jobs."

Following the public meetings, the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue was formed in 2011 and Gill was fully involved from the start – originally as a member of the Social Impacts and Infrastructure Working Group and then as one of three community members of the Dialogue's governing body, the Joint Advisory Steering Committee, when it was formed in October 2015.

Gill says she looks at the Dialogue's achievements with pride – in particular its projects.

"The projects that have come out of the Dialogue have been wonderful," she says. "They provide real results to the public that say these are the facts; this



Gill and Peter Eason.

And, while not all points of view presented at the Dialogue working groups are agreed upon, Gill says they are treated with respect.

"I thoroughly enjoyed working with the people of the Dialogue," she says. "The different points of view; seeing things from a different perspective. People around the table are very respectful of differing points of view."

And Gill believes the Dialogue continues to serve an important, ongoing purpose.

"We didn't set out to solve all the problems of the world, we just chipped away at the biggest issues of the time and made some real progress," she says.

"I think it should continue. The projects that are ongoing need to continue.

"These projects allow the community and the mining companies to come together. There has been so much learning.

"It's the only way we are going to get consensus and solutions to the issues."

Community members interested in filling the vacancy on the Joint Advisory Steering Committee due to Gill's resignation can register their interest via email at info@nswmining.com.au.



Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue



SCHOOL IS IN

SCHOOL IS IN AT UPPER HUNTER MINES.

Hundreds of students are visiting open cut mines across the Upper Hunter as part of the Dialogue's School Mines Tour Program.

Nearing the end of its first full year in operation, the program offers all schools in the Singleton-Muswellbrook catchment area the opportunity to tour a local mine.

The 2018 program caters for about 1000 Year 5 and Year 9 students to tour 13 mine sites with mine employees acting as expert guides.

The tours aim to demystify the mining process and give participants a fact-based, first-hand educational experience which explains mining benefits and impacts on our day to day lives.

Messaging for the tours has been developed by a Dialogue working group consisting of community members, teachers and mining and local government representatives.



REHAB TOPS THE LIST

SURVEY RANKS COMMUNITIES PRIORITIES AND CONCERNS

Rehabilitation strategies should be the priority focus for the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue, according to people surveyed at the Dialogue's community engagement events.

The Dialogue conducts surveys as part of its interactive displays at community shows and events and 73 per cent of the almost 400 people surveyed nominated rehabilitation strategies as their issue of most importance.

The surveys list potential issues of concern but also allow respondents to nominate their own priorities. The survey results help the Dialogue plan its future path and projects aimed at lessening mining impacts.

According to the surveys, water quality issues, at 53 per cent, were the second most selected priority, followed by air quality issues at 43 per cent, development of voids 42 per cent, research 28 per cent and noise reduction 16 per cent.

The surveys also ask respondents how they believe mining benefits the Upper Hunter; boosting the economy through employment and supporting other businesses are seen as major benefits.

Most survey respondents also believed



mining positively co-exists with the community with 62 per cent positive responses compared to nine per cent negative.

Following on from its ranking as one of the top issues pinpointed by the survey, possible beneficial use of final voids was also viewed positively by respondents with more than half (51 per cent) suggesting voids could be put to good use for the community compared to eight per cent saying they could not.

Have your say by filling out a survey at our next community engagement event – help the Dialogue plan and go in the draw to win a personalised mine tour! The Dialogue is on display across multiple community events including Muswellbrook Show, Singleton Show, Broke Village Fair, Hunter Coal Festival, Tocal Field Days and others.

FEEDBACK PROMPTS PROJECTS

The Upper Hunter Dialogue uses feedback from its surveys and other sources to develop strategies and projects linked to community concerns. For example, following the emergence of rehabilitation as an emerging issue, the Dialogue has:

- Produced a series of educational posters detailing how mining companies progressively rehabilitate mined land
- Organised a display detailing the industry's rehabilitation strategies at the 2018 Hunter Coal Festival
- Promoted the results of its annual Rehabilitated Land Report which tracks the amount of land rehabilitated yearly compared to the amount of land disturbed by mining
- Involvement in the Rehabilitation and Mine Closure Working Group

Other projects linked to community feedback include:

- The Hunter River Water Quality Study
- Air Quality Fact Sheet
- Synoptic Plan Review
- Weather Forecasting Project and Clearing the Air Video
- Water Accounting Framework
- Cattle Grazing Trials
- School Mine Tours