

## AGENDA

### Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

### Joint Economic and Social Development Working Group Meeting

Wednesday 10 June, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

#### Join via Zoom Video - details below:

Join Zoom Meeting via Web Browser

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84401319555?pwd=NjNkK2E5TjBIQ01qTnh6YmVGYTJWUT09>

Password: JESDWG

OR

#### By dialing in on your telephones - details below:

Join Zoom Meeting via Telephone

+61 2 8015 6011 Australia

Meeting ID: 844 0131 9555

No.	Item	Attachment
1.	Welcome and apologies (5 mins)	
2.	Minutes and Actions from previous meeting (5 mins)	
3.	COVID-19 Update and Impacts on 2020 Projects and Activities (15 mins)	Yes
4.	<b>Presentation: Debbie Barwick, NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce</b> (15 mins)	
5.	Business Support Service Proposal (10 mins)	Yes
6.	Update on Mining Procurement Business Events (10 mins)	Yes
7.	Update on Mining Procurement Information Hub (5 mins)	
8.	Update on Communications Activities (10 mins)	
9.	Update from other Dialogue Working Groups/Committees (5 mins)	
10.	Other Business (5 mins)	
11.	Next Meeting & Close (5 mins)	

**Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue  
Joint Economic and Social Development Working Group - 10 June 2020**

Agenda Item 2

**MINUTES AND ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue  
Joint Economic and Social Development Working Group Meeting**

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

**Wednesday 11 March 2020, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm**

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**Attending**

Ngaire Baker (Chair)	Mount Pleasant Operation
Damien Butler	The Bloomfield Group
Sue Gilroy	Singleton Business Chamber
Josh Harris	Glencore (via teleconference)
Natalie Hewitt	Singleton Business Chamber
Scott Fittler	Yancoal
Leah Scheepers	BHP (via teleconference)
Helen Young	Thiess
Bob Mackie	theresource
James Barben	NSW Minerals Council
Craig Milton	NSW Minerals Council

**Apologies**

Debbie Barwick	NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce
Sean Britton	Singleton Shire Council
Anthea Craig	Thiess
David Gatwood	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Mike Kelly	Muswellbrook Business Chamber
Aleksandar Mitreski	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Craig White	Bengalla Mining Company

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**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed all attendees and noted the apologies.

**2. Minutes and Actions from Previous Meeting**

The minutes were accepted by members with actions from the previous meetings noted.

Members discussed the Committee for the Hunter, and the decision not to register the NSW Minerals Council in this initiative at this stage due to the sign-up costs involved.

Mr. Butler advised that Bloomfield recently undertook a site tour of the pit at Rix's Creek with 16 representatives across Singleton Council's various departments, which has helped improve their understanding of mining operations in the region.

**3. Presentation: Debbie Barwick, NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce**

Debbie Barwick was unable to attend and requested that her presentation be postponed until the

following meeting.

**ACTION:**

- **Dialogue secretariat to reschedule Debbie Barwick's presentation for the June 2020 Joint Working Group meeting.**

**4. Outcomes of 2019 Forum**

Mr. Barben provided an overview of the documents for consideration and discussion from working group members, noting that these will be discussed at the upcoming JASC meeting to determine the Dialogue's key priorities for 2020. Discussion for key items is included below:

*Skills and Jobs*

- Members were unsure what the crux of this feedback was referring to. Feedback from the business chambers pointed to shortages within other industries to certain trades or professions, as some skilled workers seek careers in the mining industry.
- The Chair noted that statistics from a presentation at a recent Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry event may be helpful in the Dialogue better understanding concerns around the pipeline of available workers in the region. This research showed that Year 10 school leavers were not staying within the region for apprenticeships and were seeking careers outside the Upper Hunter. The research also showed that mining is not considered a job for life.
- Members advised they have no trouble attracting trainees; however, it is highly skilled workers which are sought after, particularly mining engineers.
- Mr. Barben noted that some of these general concerns would be addressed via the NSWMC work in careers and are likely not within the remit of the Dialogue
- Members supported parking this as an issue for now and to revisit if it becomes a major issue in the future. Members noted however, that they were unsure of how the Dialogue could make a positive impact in this space.

**ACTION:**

- **Dialogue secretariat to follow up with Chair regarding sending through Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce & Industry presentation.**

*Procurement Information Hub*

- Members welcomed the procurement resource on the Dialogue website and noted that it is pleasing to see traffic through these company sites.
- The Dialogue's focus is to now finalise the content, including the information from outstanding companies, and to look at developing the
- The Dialogue secretariat noted that based on the event feedback, it would be beneficial to try and map out any case studies of a supplier successfully navigating the website or business events to secure a tender with a company. The Chair advised that there is likely a supplier working with Sedgman who could be utilised for this purpose.

**ACTION:**

- **Dialogue secretariat to follow up with Chair to discuss successful supplier case study.**

*Procurement Business Events*

- Members noted the successful two events held last year and the positive feedback overall. Several suggestions were noted as great ideas.
- Members supported exploring a 'Meet the Buyers' format for this year's events, noting that short 5-minute timed discussions whereby suppliers could provide an elevator pitch to companies would be beneficial.
- Singleton Business Chamber advised that they had earmarked a procurement event for September 2020 and would be happy to tie this in with the Dialogue's theme.
- Members supported the Dialogue producing a 'cheat sheet' that could be provided to prospective suppliers in advance to ensure they have thought about a range of relevant considerations that mining companies may need to discuss.
- If attendees could also be supplied with a list or matrix of each company involved and the categories to which they each provide regular or continuous tendering opportunities for (similar to what is already displayed on the hub) would help ensure that companies are having the right conversations with the right companies.

- Members advised that if attendees do not have the ability to speak with every company they wish to, that the Dialogue includes a mechanism by which attendees can exchange gift cards or register for a later discussion offline. Circulating a list of those attending will also help forge contacts.
- Members discussed which company reps would be appropriate. Members agreed that in addition to dedicated procurement personnel, industry should be providing suppliers with access to other tech people on site who have the procurement need and are putting things out for tender, such as engineering, maintenance, enviros, production etc.

#### **ACTION:**

- **Dialogue secretariat to liaise with Business Chambers regarding locking in event dates for 2020 and create plans for 'Meet the Buyers' style events.**

#### *Induction requirements/Standardisation*

- Members noted that industry has certain reasons for their particular set of site requirements, and these also vary between different categories of contracts, so while standardisation is a good idea in principle, it is unlikely that this is able to be changed.
- Mr. Barben raised the idea of mapping out the induction process and whether this would be beneficial to suppliers, however members advised that once suppliers engage with a site regarding a procurement tender, they will be better equipped for future interactions, and that a fact sheet won't really set them up.
- Business Chamber feedback was that this is not a prominent issue.

#### *Social issues*

- Members discussed the potential for the Dialogue to reach out to the Singleton Interagency's David Baker to better understand their priorities and how the Dialogue may add value to social issues, without replicating aspects of their work program.
- Members advised that Kim Manwaring at Singleton Council could also help advise on this matter.
- The Chair noted that the Hunter Research Foundation (HRF) Centre is coming up soon, and it would be good for the Dialogue and our members to support this research focused on the Upper Hunter economy and other social factors. This also gives reach to other sectors of the community outside the typical Dialogue Working Group/Committee structure.

#### *Participant Survey*

- Members discussed the survey results and noted the feedback to help improve future events.

#### *Future Forums*

- Mr. Barben noted that the Dialogue secretariat is mindful of having enough content to warrant the hosting of a Forum in 2020, adding that the slate of 2019 projects has shown that there is a lag between analysing the feedback and commencing projects, such that it is difficult to turn this around in a 12 month period. Mr. Barben suggested whether a two-yearly event may be more suitable to ensure that it provides value to attendees.
- The Hunter Coal Festival was flagged as a potential option for the Dialogue to have a large presence at and an opportunity to meet with a large range of stakeholders to gather feedback.
- Mr. Barben also noted that the Dialogue secretariat is conscious of the demands that are being placed on companies in relation to the Dialogue's annual projects, school tours and business events in addition to the Working Group and Committee structure.
- Members noted that much of the discussion session feedback related to improving the communication of the outcomes of existing projects.
- Then Chair advised members of the Singleton Cultural Spectacular scheduled for September 2020, which could provide an additional opportunity to engage with stakeholders.

### **5. Update on Mining Procurement Information Hub**

Member discussion on this agenda item was included in the 2019 Forum Outcomes.

### **6. Update on Mining Procurement Business Events**

Member discussion on this agenda item was included in the 2019 Forum Outcomes discussion. Members agreed a 'Meet the Buyers' event would be a preferred approach for the Dialogue in 2020 and

help facilitate a greater level of discussions between suppliers and procurement personnel, which is the key goal of the events. Members suggested a 'working lunch' format with light finger food, such as wraps, sandwiches and the like would help satisfy attendees and accommodate more guests than a formal sit-down lunch.

## 7. Update on Communications Activities

Mr. Mackie updated members on the various communications activities underway for 2020. The key engagement initiative for the Dialogue is the School Mine Tours Program, which is currently in the final planning stages. Mr. Mackie encouraged the sharing of content, particularly the Dialogue 2019 Forum summary video across member networks.

The video received positive feedback from members, who were keen to see similar videos in the future to promote the Dialogue's activities. The video can be viewed via the following link:  
[https://youtu.be/Xv\\_RzBEm3Fs](https://youtu.be/Xv_RzBEm3Fs).

For member reference, the video production company used was Toybox Films, contact details are as follows (Aaron Haberfield, <http://www.toybox.net.au>)

## 8. Update on other Dialogue Working Groups & Committees

Members noted the activities and projects being progressed by other Working Groups and Steering Committees.

## 9. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

## 10. Next Meeting and Close

The meeting closed at 2.30 pm.

### Actions Arising from Meeting

Action	Responsibility	Progress
Dialogue secretariat to reschedule Debbie Barwick's presentation for the June 2020 Joint Working Group meeting.	Dialogue secretariat	Completed
Dialogue secretariat to follow up with Chair regarding sending through Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce & Industry presentation.	Dialogue secretariat	In progress
Dialogue secretariat to follow up with Chair to discuss successful supplier case study.	Dialogue secretariat	In progress
Dialogue secretariat to liaise with Business Chambers regarding locking in event dates for 2020 and create plans for 'Meet the Buyers' style events.	Dialogue secretariat	Completed

**Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue  
Joint Economic and Social Development Working Group - 10 June 2020**

Agenda Item 3

**COVID-19 UPDATE AND IMPACTS ON 2020 PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES**

**Issue**

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in unprecedented impacts to the daily life and work arrangements of us all in 2020, including impacting how the Dialogue operates and conducts several of our projects and activities.

**Background**

Fortunately, the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue's Working Groups were able to meet during February and March to discuss the feedback received at the 2019 Forum and determine where the Dialogue's priorities should be focused in 2020.

The Dialogue secretariat remains committed to engaging with our stakeholders to provide updates on our progress during this time of uncertainty. The Dialogue distributed a brief document (**attached**) summarising the 2019 Forum feedback alongside the March 2020 Joint Working Group discussions, with information collated across three key themes.

Also included in the document is the table below outlining projects and activities that have been impacted by COVID-19 (e.g. school tours, events) as well as those which the Dialogue secretariat has been able to progress in the recent period (e.g. annual reporting projects, website upgrade, and a focus on communications).

Unaffected by COVID-19	Impacted by COVID-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Annual reporting projects</b> - Data currently being sought from industry members for the Water Accounting Framework and Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments projects. These are both on track.</li> <li>● <b>Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network Data Analysis Project</b> - Report is currently being finalised and will be sent for peer review by CSIRO shortly.</li> <li>● <b>Newsletters and Communications</b> - Recent newsletter expedited to update members on recent Dialogue progress.</li> <li>● <b>Member update emails</b> - Communicating updates to members on relevant developments as they arise.</li> <li>● <b>Procurement Information Hub</b> - Liaising with companies to finalise outstanding information for this resource.</li> <li>● <b>Website upgrades</b> - Ensuring up to date information and progressing with planning for upgrading the website by Q3 2020.</li> <li>● <b>HRSTS Study</b> - Awaiting further water quality analysis to close our report.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>School Mine Tours Program</b> - Scheduled tours postponed, to be rescheduled once public health advice is updated.</li> <li>● <b>Community events schedule</b> - Community events unlikely to go ahead in short-medium term. Dialogue to keep engaged with shows for alternate/future plans.</li> <li>● <b>Working Group and Steering Committee meetings</b> - Face to face meetings postponed until public health advice is updated. Dialogue meetings will be undertaken as teleconference or zoom meetings in the interim.</li> <li>● <b>Business Procurement Events</b> - 2020 events plan drafted following advice from Joint Working Group, TBC with Chambers once public health advice is updated, and large gatherings permitted once again.</li> <li>● <b>Dialogue 2020 Forum</b> - Ongoing restrictions regarding large gatherings may require the Dialogue to reconsider this event.</li> </ul>

Members were encouraged to review the document and advise whether this summary reflected these discussions and potential actions for the Dialogue to consider exploring in 2020.

**FOR INFORMATION**

**Attachment: Summary of Working Group Discussions**

**Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue**  
**Summary of the Working Group Discussions of 2019 Forum Feedback and 2020 Priorities**  
**May 2020**

**Introduction**

As previously communicated to Steering Committee members, the ongoing COVID-19 situation has presented a number of challenges for 2020 with regards to the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue.

While there has been a noticeable impact on the ability for our stakeholders to gather at Dialogue meetings and for the Dialogue to attend local events, the Dialogue secretariat has been busily working to progress a number of projects in this time and keep members updated on the progress of such projects and activities through various communications channels.

The Dialogue was fortunate to hold an initial round of Working Group meetings to discuss the feedback from the 2019 Forum and help determine which suggestions may be appropriate for further consideration and endorsement by the Joint Advisory Steering Committee. This summary commences on **Page 2**.

Below is a short table that provides an overview of key Dialogue projects and activities impacted by COVID-19, and those for which the Dialogue secretariat has been able to continue or commence during the recent period.

**Table of Projects/Activities and the impact of COVID-19 on the Dialogue**

Unaffected by COVID-19	Impacted by COVID-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Annual reporting projects</b> - Data currently being sought from industry members for the Water Accounting Framework and Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments projects. These are both on track.</li> <li>● <b>Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network Data Analysis Project</b> - Report is currently being finalised and will be sent for peer review by CSIRO shortly.</li> <li>● <b>Newsletters and Communications</b> - Recent newsletter expedited to update members on recent Dialogue progress.</li> <li>● <b>Member update emails</b> - Communicating updates to members on relevant developments as they arise.</li> <li>● <b>Procurement Information Hub</b> - Liaising with companies to finalise outstanding information for this resource.</li> <li>● <b>Website upgrades</b> - Ensuring up to date information and progressing with planning for upgrading the website by Q3 2020.</li> <li>● <b>HRSTS Study</b> - Awaiting further water quality analysis to close our report.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>School Mine Tours Program</b> - Scheduled tours postponed, to be rescheduled once public health advice is updated.</li> <li>● <b>Community events schedule</b> - Community events unlikely to go ahead in short-medium term. Dialogue to keep engaged with shows for alternate/future plans.</li> <li>● <b>Working Group and Steering Committee meetings</b> - Face to face meetings postponed until public health advice is updated. Dialogue meetings will be undertaken as teleconference or zoom meetings in the interim.</li> <li>● <b>Business Procurement Events</b> - 2020 events plan drafted following advice from Joint Working Group, TBC with Chambers once public health advice is updated, and large gatherings permitted once again.</li> <li>● <b>Dialogue 2020 Forum</b> - Ongoing restrictions regarding large gatherings may require the Dialogue to reconsider this event.</li> </ul>

## Introduction to Forum Feedback

Members from the Joint Environment Working Group, Joint Economic and Social Development Working Group, and Communications Working Group met during March 2020 to discuss the feedback received from stakeholders at the 2019 Forum.

Below is a summary of these recent Working Group discussions, which Steering Committee members may consider in addition to the Forum summaries. As evident from the summary, much of the discussion session feedback related to refining and improving the communication of the outcomes of existing projects and activities (including the annual reporting projects) the Dialogue and other key stakeholders are currently engaged in, rather than creating new Dialogue projects.

### 1. ENVIRONMENT

#### a. Air Quality, Emissions & Health

<b><i>Air Quality Analysis Project</i></b>	
<b>2019 Forum Feedback</b>	<b>Working Group Discussion</b>
<p>Promote findings of the Air Quality project. Significant interest in Air Quality project presentation overall and were keen to see what the full outcomes of this analysis would provide, given the ongoing recent poor air quality the region is experiencing.</p> <p>Opportunity to provide a lot of data and roll out different aspects of the report over the year.</p>	<p>Members supported the Dialogue promoting the key findings of the report, noting Damon Roddis' recent presentation was well-received by the majority of attendees. The Dialogue secretariat has reviewed a draft copy of ERM's report, which has been distributed for wider comments, prior to sending to CSIRO for peer review.</p>

<b><i>Perceptions of Air Quality</i></b>	
<b>2019 Forum Feedback</b>	<b>Working Group Discussion</b>
<p>Provide information on industry air quality management practices to clarify community expectations.</p> <p>Address mismatch between results presented and air quality being experienced. Amenity or health issue.</p> <p>Improving awareness to fill the gap between community expectations of air quality management and what is legally permitted.</p> <p>Individual mines vs. cumulative</p>	<p>Members agreed that tackling community perceptions of air quality issues should be a key focus for the Dialogue as there is significant uncertainty from residents about what is actually being seen in the sky when it is a hazy or dusty day, and what the potential health impacts may be on the population centres.</p> <p>Members suggested the Dialogue could examine what this visible haze or dust consists of, which may help to determine whether any links with industry exist, or enable the Dialogue to qualify the air quality relative to their human health impact.</p>



<p>impact across the region. Much of the community remains unaware of what practices the industry has in place.</p> <p>Reshare Clearing The Air video to demonstrate industry actions. Reaction to short term spikes in dust measurements from both regulators and miners. What is industry doing in response to short term spikes?</p>	<p>Members discussed the challenges faced in presenting scientific studies and analysis to the community, noting these are increasingly dismissed by those whose opinions don't align with science. While industry continues to advise stakeholders on the range of mitigation and management practices deployed onsite, this is having limited effectiveness in reaching the appropriate community members who may not believe these messages.</p> <p>Mitchell Bennett (NSW EPA) and Matthew Riley (NSW DPIE - Energy, Environment &amp; Science) attended the Joint Working Group meeting, and advised the NSW Government also faces challenges in addressing community perceptions about air quality and the disconnect between observations and monitored information.</p> <p>Members agreed that increasing communication on air quality concerns should be the Dialogue's short-term priority. The Dialogue could liaise with DPIE-EES to provide timely, straightforward and trusted information and advice on the impact of atmospheric pollutants to stakeholders. Whether the community accepts this or not is outside of the Dialogue's control, however we can focus on using plain language and reducing the level of technical information provided to improve understanding.</p> <p>DPIE-EES advised of previous work undertaken to examine the vertical structure of air pollution plumes via a jointly-funded monitor that extracts information about layers using LIDAR technology. DPIE-EES will soon be undertaking measurements at Merriwa with a ceilometer and looking at the inflows into the Hunter Valley. DPIE-EES can share this data which would be helpful in understanding the valley's dynamics.</p> <p>Members agreed the Dialogue secretariat could assist in showing the community how each mine site is monitoring air quality, by contouring DPIE-EES and industry air quality maps, and using LIDAR analysis to guide people through what they are seeing. The Dialogue secretariat agreed that there is a potential project to explore in unpacking the work that is already being developed in this space, and would look to engage with NSW EPA and DPIE-EES on how this might be pulled together.</p>
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<b><i>Air Quality and Health Impacts</i></b>	
<b>2019 Forum Feedback</b>	<b>Working Group Discussion</b>
Engaging with the health sector regarding air quality impacts and insights. Engage with health professionals to better understand the exposure risk to human health from elevated PM10 and PM2.5 particles in the region.	Members discussed the 2019 Forum suggestions to engage with relevant groups regarding their air quality concerns in relation to health impacts, noting that a presentation and discussion with David Meredith at Coal Services may be helpful for a future Joint Environment Working Group meeting.

**b. Rehabilitation and Land Management**

<b><i>ACARP study of past and present mine rehabilitation</i></b>	
<b>2019 Forum Feedback</b>	<b>Working Group Discussion</b>
Grazing Trials/Studies on Rehabilitated Mine Land. Dialogue to discuss and promote the results of the ACARP study in early 2020 once completed.	<p>The Joint Working Group received an update on the ACARP study at the Joint Environment Working Group from Justine Cox, NSW DPI, who has taken over reporting duties from Neil Griffiths. Overall, members were pleased with the study's results which showed that the soils used in site rehabilitation had produced results that compared more favourably than analogue pasture sites. Members noted that while ongoing drought conditions had adversely impacted site rehabilitation, it was positive to see a variety of different species being used on different pasture sites.</p> <p>The draft report is currently under review by industry monitors who will provide feedback to ACARP directly. It will be distributed amongst Working Group members once this feedback has been considered.</p> <p>Members recommended the Dialogue seek to promote the study's findings as it continues to generate significant interest in the Dialogue, identifying the Communications Working Group could assist in developing a comms strategy.</p>

<b><i>Rehabilitation GIS Portal</i></b>	
<b>2019 Forum Feedback</b>	<b>Working Group Discussion</b>
NSW Government GIS Rehabilitation Portal. Positive interest from stakeholders awaiting the release. Minor concerns about it being a	Members supported continued engagement between the Dialogue secretariat and DRG/Resources Regulator to share updates about this project's status and release.

<p>closed resource with limited input from industry, and limited opportunity for community feedback.</p>	<p>Members were hopeful that once released, this resource would assist in improving awareness of the whole rehabilitation process (e.g. different stages and complexities throughout the mining life cycle).</p>
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### ***Improving Awareness of Rehabilitation Methods***

<b>2019 Forum Feedback</b>	<b>Working Group Discussion</b>
<p>Improve communication to demonstrate rehabilitation methods. Lack of understanding of what 'rehabilitation' means (e.g. mature vs. seeding). How to communicate progress via the annual rehabilitation results infographic. More photos? Highlight what is involved, who is responsible, the different landform types, design types and erosion models involved?</p>	<p>Members discussed recent interactions with the community that have highlighted that many don't believe rehabilitation is being undertaken, possibly due to negative press and the inability to access/view rehabilitation and recognise what constitutes rehabilitation.</p> <p>Members agreed that the Dialogue secretariat should be focusing on communicating that progressive rehabilitation is being undertaken. The Dialogue secretariat agreed that we would need to review our suite of comms materials and explore other methods to reinforce key rehabilitation messages and showcase quality rehabilitation projects and activities across the Upper Hunter.</p> <p>Members supported the promotion of the DRG rehabilitation summary video, which is believed to be released shortly as this may assist in improving awareness from a trusted source within the community.</p>

### ***Innovative cultural burning programs***

<b>2019 Forum Feedback</b>	<b>Working Group Discussion</b>
<p>Greater involvement of indigenous groups in rehabilitation and land management groups. Recent presentations on cultural burning and land management were well-received. Encouragement to continue engagement with these and similar groups.</p>	<p>Members supported the continued involvement of organisations involved in cultural burning programs in the Upper Hunter. The presentations in the 2019 Working Group meetings were well-received, with members encouraging the Dialogue to seek regular updates on their progress and activities.</p>

**c. Water Quality and Stewardship**

<b>Water stewardship case studies to highlight water use and drought preparedness</b>	
<b>2019 Forum Feedback</b>	<b>Working Group Discussion</b>
<p>Developing case studies on tailings storage and water treatment to show reclaimed water is used, site forecasts for water use in drought conditions, water efficiency projects, innovation and Ravensworth Greater Water Sharing Scheme.</p> <p>Provide information on industry drought preparation. Highlighting industry's drought planning and projections for limited water use, and the associated impact on operations.</p>	<p>Industry members noted they are keenly conserving and reducing water use onsite. Although recent rainfall has helped, further rain is required in the coming months, as the region prepares to face reductions in water allocations.</p> <p>Members agreed the Dialogue secretariat should seek to develop industry case studies that profile water reuse and stewardship initiatives across local sites. This will help demonstrate the level of planning sites are taking to prepare for ongoing drought conditions and the benefits this may provide the community long-term.</p> <p>Members agreed that the Greater Ravensworth Water Sharing Scheme is a good example of industry that highlights the conservation and reuse of resources onsite, which could resonate with stakeholders in the context of current environmental challenges in the region.</p>

<b>Revisiting the Water Tank Study</b>	
<b>2019 Forum Feedback</b>	<b>Working Group Discussion</b>
<p>Is it worth reviewing the Camberwell tank study for drinking water/tank water impacts from pollutants?</p>	<p>Members advised of a range of current tank cleaning services and treatments offered to residents by local sites and that it is generally not a major concern.</p> <p>Members advised the original study found there was nothing to suggest the mining industry was directly responsible for various water tank impacts (e.g. elevated lead levels were attributed to lead flashing). The study determined that in many cases residents were not complying with tank water management guidelines (i.e. cleaned every two years, drawing on Glennies Creek water).</p> <p>Members advised that the Dialogue may need to look at communicating the outcomes of these studies. The Dialogue secretariat has received information from HNEH regarding the initial study findings.</p>

## 2. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

<b>Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Project</b>	
<b>2019 Forum Feedback</b>	<b>Working Group Discussion</b>
<p>Improve stakeholder understanding of the Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Project</p> <p>Share information from NSW Govt about who is leading this project, what its purpose is, how it is relevant to the community, and whether it is successful? This will help improve community understanding of efforts to diversify the Upper Hunter economy.</p>	<p>Members noted there is a general lack of awareness about this project across all stakeholder groups and that it appears to involve only government organisations with little representation or consideration of external stakeholders.</p> <p>Members supported the Dialogue secretariat engaging with the NSW government for an update on this project to determine how the Dialogue secretariat may assist with economic diversification objectives in the Upper Hunter. Members recommended a presentation from Stephen Wills (Regional NSW - RIAR) at a future JWG meeting.</p>

<b>Skills and Jobs</b>	
<b>2019 Forum Feedback</b>	<b>Working Group Discussion</b>
<p>Address the skills shortages and demand for trades trainees, apprentices, and graduates in the Upper Hunter</p> <p>Work with industry partners to determine whether any mining companies or their suppliers require any specific apprentice trades. Promote job advertisements on Dialogue website via a 'Jobs Hub'.</p>	<p>Members advised that this would be a potentially resource intensive project, and given that industry has different methods of advertising jobs this may not be a feasible project.</p> <p>Members were uncertain about which parties were experiencing skills shortages and demand for trainees or apprentices as reported at the 2019 Forum (whether by local business or mining companies). Industry advised there is no shortage of apprentices or trainees, however skilled workers such as engineers are in demand. Business Chambers advised that some businesses have had difficulties attracting certain trades, however noted this was not a primary concern.</p> <p>A presentation at a recent MCCI breakfast event showed that Year 10 school leavers are moving outside the Upper Hunter for apprenticeship and career opportunities, and that mining is not perceived as a life-long career. May be worth tapping into this research to understand concerns around the pipeline of available workers.</p> <p>Members were unsure the Dialogue could assist in this space, and noted that skills issues may be addressed via NSWMC careers programs. Members supported parking this issue and revisit if required.</p>

<b>Procurement Information Hub</b>	
<b>2019 Forum Feedback</b>	<b>Working Group Discussion</b>
<p>Refining the Procurement Information Hub. Complete outstanding information and increase engagement in the long-term. Link to other existing hubs. Develop a proforma template to give time-poor smaller suppliers a chance to tender without lengthy individualised letters.</p>	<p>Members were pleased with the website's procurement information hub, noting that it is pleasing to see stakeholders accessing company sites for information. The Dialogue secretariat is finalising the content from companies with information outstanding, and will seek to produce a pamphlet resource for distribution at future events in the longer-term.</p> <p>Members agreed that it would be beneficial to try and map out a case study of a supplier navigating the procurement hub or business events to successfully secure a tender opportunity with a mining company. The Dialogue secretariat is following up with Mount Pleasant Operation regarding a potential case study.</p> <p>Members noted the Communications Working Group could focus on the promotion of this resource and to whom.</p>

<b>Procurement Business Events</b>	
<b>2019 Forum Feedback</b>	<b>Working Group Discussion</b>
<p>Refining the Business Events</p> <p>Expand the format of these events in 2019 by considering different themes, speakers, and locations, e.g. longer detailed workshop-style events, supplier speakers, other companies not already featured.</p>	<p>Members noted the 2019 events had generated positive feedback and useful suggestions for improving the 2020 events. Singleton Business Chamber has a procurement event set for September 2020, and the Dialogue will seek to confirm a similar MCCI event shortly.</p> <p>Members supported framing the 2020 events in a 'Meet the Buyers' format, noting that short timed 'five-minute elevator pitch' discussions between suppliers and companies would benefit suppliers and ensure they are getting value from their attendance.</p> <p>Members supported the Dialogue producing a 'cheat sheet' for attendees in advance to brief them on the range of relevant considerations they may need to cover off on when discussing opportunities with mining companies. This resource could include a matrix of each company involved and the services they offer (both continuous and one-off), as is currently displayed on the procurement hub, and would ensure that suppliers are having the right conversations with the right companies.</p>

	<p>Members encouraged the Dialogue to provide a mechanism that allows attendees to engage with companies offline (e.g. exchanging business gift cards, or register for a post-event discussion). Circulating a list of attendees will also assist engagement.</p> <p>Members agreed that in addition to dedicated procurement personnel, companies should also allow access to the technical personnel who have the procurement need (e.g. engineering, maintenance, enviros, production) at these events.</p>
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**Standardisation of induction requirements**

<b>2019 Forum Feedback</b>	<b>Working Group Discussion</b>
<p>Determine if any opportunities to standardise mining procurement/induction requirements could improve supplier engagement with industry in the Upper Hunter</p> <p>Individualistic approaches to site access and how work is undertaken. Any opportunity to work with industry and determine commonalities and develop a mining standardisation aid or tool, similar to a construction white card, that identifies a supplier has met a standard level of skills, training or requirements required across all sites. Is this possible? If not, why not?</p> <p>Lack of consistency and awareness about the induction process across sites. Easy to gather this info for each company and add to existing Procurement Information, establish a generic induction process to guide.</p>	<p>Members noted the suggestion to standardise site requirements, however agreed that each company has valid reasons for their particular set of site requirements, and that as these vary greatly between organisations, and between different types of contracts within the one site, standardisation is unlikely to be achieved. Business chambers advised this is not a prominent issue for their members.</p> <p>Members discussed whether it would be worth developing a 'mobilisation fact sheet' to provide an overview of basic requirements, however members agreed this would need to be very high-level and generic so that it would have a limited benefit to suppliers. Members advised that once suppliers take the steps to actually engage with a company on a procurement tender, this will build familiarity with the requirements and equip the supplier for future interactions.</p>

**Social issues**

<b>2019 Forum Feedback</b>	<b>Working Group Discussion</b>
<p>Greater focus on contemporary social issues</p>	<p>Members noted that this included few suggestions on what particular social issues the Dialogue should base this work around (e.g. youth, mental health or indigenous issues). Members recommended the Dialogue secretariat engage</p>



<p>Dialogue has had a strong initial focus on economic projects. Any opportunity to look at social impacts like housing cost and availability or engaging with the HRF Centre through economic/social surveys.</p>	<p>with the Singleton Interagency's David Baker (or Singleton Council's Kim Manwaring) to get a better sense of the current or emerging social issues and to better understand their priorities to avoid replicating their work and ensure the Dialogue is adding value.</p> <p>Members discussed increasing support for the Hunter Research Foundation (HRF) Centre's economic breakfasts in the Upper Hunter, as they are providing regular relevant research focused on both economic and social issues in the region, and would also give the Dialogue reach to relevant groups in the community outside the Dialogue organisational structure.</p>
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### 3. COMMUNICATIONS

<b>School Mine Tours Program</b>	
<b>2019 Forum Feedback</b>	<b>Working Group Discussion</b>
<p>Evaluate the School Mine Tours Program, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey teachers</li> <li>• Building on the initial relationship from the tour by engaging with students in the classroom before/after the tour.</li> <li>• Expand the tours beyond the Upper Hunter into the Lower Hunter, Sydney and Newcastle schools.</li> <li>• Leverage off parents, siblings and other key family members to expand community engagement with the tours to help the broader community.</li> <li>• Reinforce key messages regarding what the tours are actually about (neutrality and learning) to dispel false information.</li> </ul>	<p>Members supported the Dialogue seeking to increase pre- and post-tour engagement with students, and noted that the NSWMC's PRIME program would support this engagement.</p> <p>Members were pleased to hear that Scone schools had agreed to participate in an expanded 2020 program of tours. Members noted that suggestions to include other catchments in the tours program would significantly increase the current tour load being asked of companies involved, however the NSWMC PRIME program would likely assist these catchments and increase engagement with mining education in classroom learning.</p> <p>Members supported seeking additional teacher feedback on the tours, and were pleased that anecdotal feedback from teachers had been positive to date.</p> <p>Members welcomed greater access to viewing rehabilitation progress on sites, and in some cases tree planting activities for students, to complement the general tours and classroom learnings to encourage practical 'hands on' experiences.</p>



**Utilising existing networks to share Dialogue and partner content**

2019 Forum Feedback	Working Group Discussion
<p>Utilise existing networks and community avenues to better distribute Dialogue material. Promoting the Dialogue newsletter in libraries or markets, government departments, or linking in better with local publications like @theCoalface to share newsletter information.</p> <p>Leveraging Dialogue partner networks to share content. Greater utilisation of industry and other partners in spreading Dialogue messages and vice versa.</p>	<p>The Dialogue secretariat encouraged member companies to share Dialogue content such as videos and news articles, as well as individual site tour stories.</p> <p>Companies were also encouraged to share any news of relevance to their local operations that the Dialogue can share across our social media platforms.</p>

**Website and social media content**

2019 Forum Feedback	Working Group Discussion
<p>Share stats on the Dialogue website, social media and newsletter readership. Visitation rates of the Dialogue website, Facebook page and newsletters to determine how effective we are at communicating our stories. Updates for Comms Working Group</p> <p>Better use of the website and social media. Website connection and navigation issues, poor interface, buried information. Upgrade expected late 2020. Clear opportunity for lead project with Comms WG. Scheduling posts on Facebook. Potential for Twitter?</p>	<p>Members welcomed greater visibility of Dialogue website visitation statistics and were pleased to see that Dialogue content was being viewed by stakeholders. Members recommended the website be regularly updated to remain relevant to stakeholders and encouraged sharing stats to the Working Group on a regular basis.</p> <p>Members provided positive feedback on the 2019 Forum summary video, and were pleased that it had generated good engagement. Member companies were encouraged to share the video to encourage greater interaction with the Dialogue.</p> <p>Members discussed the Dialogue's current website and supported an upgrade in 2020 to improve the reliability and accessibility of content. This item will be a recurring discussion at future 2020 meetings.</p> <p>Members supported the Dialogue investigating how we can best utilise the Dialogue's VR content to facilitate greater engagement with, and sharing of this content outside of the Dialogue events and school tours.</p> <p>The Dialogue secretariat encouraged companies to document school tours on their sites where possible, as this would help share positive Dialogue news stories and social media content.</p>

**Accessibility concerns of Forum and Dialogue**

2019 Forum Feedback	Working Group Discussion
<p>Making the Forum and Dialogue more accessible. Perception of an exclusive event for industry only. Need to engage more proactively with prospective participants throughout the year to ensure awareness of inclusivity and ability to provide input. Address lack of community members.</p> <p>Generally limited understanding of Dialogue structure, meeting cycles and working group involvement. Need to strip back the website and make it clear how people can be involved, encourage engagement, and how we go about our business. Potentially reverse the process and get the community to present to mines or at least sharing what we're all doing around the table.</p>	<p>Members noted the concerns about the community accessing the Forum and the Dialogue more generally and the perception that these are closed events and initiatives. Members agreed the Dialogue should focus on communicating with stakeholders how they can engage with the Dialogue and attend future events. The Dialogue will seek to be more proactive in identifying and approaching new attendees to ensure they receive the information and discussions they are seeking.</p> <p>The Dialogue's newly designed newsletter will include a column in each edition that provides an overview of the Dialogue's establishment and objectives to increase awareness and encourage prospective members to become engaged.</p>

**Engaging in face to face events**

2019 Forum Feedback	Working Group Discussion
<p>Continue face to face and proactive engagement with stakeholders. Dialogue event attendance is well received, as well as regular presentations to CCCs and councils. Keep flexible and look for available avenues (online and physical) that will achieve the desired results.</p>	<p>The Dialogue's event plan for 2020 was supported by members, although significant changes will be required as the COVID-19 situation progresses and events are delayed or cancelled in 2020.</p>

#### 4. FUTURE FORUMS

- Some Working Groups discussed how the Dialogue secretariat might approach the planning for future Forums, both in terms of content and frequency.
- Members discussed whether a two-yearly event may be more suitable for the Dialogue to ensure that we can demonstrate significant progress and provide value to attendees, rather than having an event where many projects are in progress.
- The Hunter Coal Festival may be a potential option for the Dialogue to have a large presence and would act as an appropriate opportunity to meet with a large range of stakeholders to gather feedback. The Singleton Cultural Spectacular was also flagged as an additional opportunity.
- The Dialogue secretariat is conscious of the increasing level of demand that the Dialogue's annual projects, school tours and business events are placing on member companies, in addition to personnel attending the Working Group and Steering Committee meetings.

**Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue  
Joint Economic and Social Development Working Group - 10 June 2020**

Agenda Item 4

**PRESENTATION: Debbie Barwick, NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce**

The NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce (NSWICC) is a non-Government, not for profit organisation established in 2006 to support Aboriginal People to establish and operate their own businesses and to provide a forum for Business owners to come together to network, to share and to learn from each other. It is the first Indigenous Chamber of Commerce in Australia and has built a respected brand as the peak body and voice for NSW Aboriginal business, representing the interests of over 4500 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Business Owners today.

Debbie Barwick is the Chief Executive Officer of NSWICC and Chairperson of the First Australians Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FACCI) and is an award-winning Aboriginal Entrepreneur and Business Owner. Having dedicated much of her working life to supporting the aspirations of Aboriginal Entrepreneurship and Business, Deb is working with Government and Industry to ensure Aboriginal Business informs the development of Aboriginal Purchasing Policies. Deb is an experienced trainer on procurement and a respected advisor to State and Federal Governments on Economic Policy. She is an accomplished business owner herself, having operated several successful enterprises over the past decade including Winya Indigenous Furniture.

**FOR INFORMATION**

**Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue  
Joint Economic and Social Development Working Group - 10 June 2020**

Agenda Item 5

**BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICE PROPOSAL**

**Issue**

An opportunity to expand the Dialogue's ability to support and guide local businesses recently emerged via the BHP Vital Resources Fund.

**Background**

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue secretariat recently prepared a project proposal under the direction of the Joint Advisory Steering Committee for a Dialogue Business Support Service.

The proposed service would provide support and guidance to businesses in the Upper Hunter in this critical period brought on by Covid-19 restrictions. Working closely with other services, the Dialogue Business Support Service would allow businesses to access free expert advice and links to external services they could otherwise struggle to find.

The Dialogue has applied to the BHP Vital Resources Fund for funding for the program including the employment of a Business Support Manager. During preparation of the proposal the Dialogue secretariat has consulted with potential key stakeholders and gained their support including local councils and business chambers.

This Joint Working Group will have a role in overseeing the service should it be successful in securing funding.

The proposed Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Business Support Service would have a two-pronged approach:

1. Support businesses to stay in business
2. Help businesses that are forced to close or hibernate navigate through the process and develop a recovery plan that will allow them to return to business once the stress from the pandemic has passed

The service would be a one-stop shop, offering free expert consultation, investigation and business advice and offering pathways for government, community, and industry support.

For businesses that are viable with some support, the service would continue to work with them including investigating additional revenue opportunities utilising the Dialogue's Procurement Hub and other databases.

For more complex cases, financial advice would be offered through partnerships with independent financial advisers/accountants. The service would also map pathways to services aimed at keeping businesses in business. These services would be contracted as required.

For cases where ongoing operation of the business may not be viable during the Covid-19 restrictions, knowledgeable advice would be provided, and pathways detailed to access support from government and other groups and agencies. Importantly, the Dialogue Business Support Service would also help develop a business recovery plan to facilitate a return to trading once the downturn has ended. The business recovery plan could also inform a business continuity plan to assist businesses to be able to respond differently and/or lessen the impact in the event of any future similar circumstances.

The Business Support Service project proposal has been designed to be scalable with a 12-month phase followed by a further year-long phase two if required.

The Dialogue Business Support Service would develop close partnerships/relationships and map

accessible pathways to:

- Government agencies
- Registered Training Organisations
- Mining industry supply and service opportunities
- Employment agencies
- Community support groups
- Industry partnerships
- Local councils
- Local Chambers of Commerce
- Indigenous chambers and groups
- Mental health support services
- Legal services
- Financial advice and accountancy services

The secretariat will keep you advised of the progress of the proposed Business Support Service and our application for funding.

### **FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

**Attachment: Full Dialogue Business Support Service Proposal**

**Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue  
Joint Economic and Social Development Working Group - 10 June 2020**

Agenda Item 6

**MINING PROCUREMENT BUSINESS EVENTS**

**Issue**

In 2019 the Dialogue established a program of mining procurement business events in conjunction with local business organisations to help promote mining procurement opportunities and processes to the local business community.

**Background**

The intent of these events is to provide opportunities for companies to update on the progress of their operations and advise of any procurement opportunities available, as well as providing an opportunity for company personnel and suppliers to network.

The Dialogue hosted two initial events (one each in Muswellbrook and Singleton) in 2019, with the assistance of the Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and the Singleton Business Chamber, which attracted over 250 attendees, featured seven local companies, and received generally positive feedback and local media coverage.

During the March 2020 Joint Working Group meeting, members discussed the feedback received from 2019 Forum participants, with members supporting the Dialogue exploring a 'Meet the Buyers' format for this year's events, consisting of short five-minute timed discussions whereby suppliers could provide an 'elevator pitch' to companies.

Singleton Business Chamber advised that they had earmarked a procurement event for September 2020 and would be happy to tie this in with the Dialogue's theme.

Members also supported the Dialogue producing a 'cheat sheet' that could be provided to prospective suppliers in advance to ensure they have thought about a range of relevant considerations that mining companies may need to discuss. If attendees could also be supplied with a list or matrix of each company involved and the categories to which they each provide regular or continuous tendering opportunities for (similar to what is already displayed on the hub) would help ensure that companies are having the right conversations with the right companies.

Members also suggested the Dialogue plan for including a mechanism by which attendees can exchange business cards or register for a later discussion offline and to circulating a list of attendees.

Members agreed that in addition to dedicated procurement personnel, industry should be providing suppliers with access to other tech people on site who have the procurement need and are putting things out for tender, such as engineering, maintenance, enviros, production etc.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our ability to host such events in the immediate future, however, please find **attached** a draft 2020 Business Events Plan to help with coordinating these events once public health advice is updated to enable such events to occur.

**FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

**Attachment: Draft 2020 Business Events Plan**

**Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue  
Procurement Business Events Planning  
March 2020**

**Theme:**

- 'Meet the Buyers'

**Two events:**

- Muswellbrook - event schedule TBC
- Singleton - procurement event earmarked for September 2020.

**Format (approx. 2 hr. event):**

- Business Chamber introduction (5 mins)
- Mining Dialogue/Minerals Council introduction - MK would like to see UH mine expenditure and regional & LGA spend. (5 to 10 mins)
- A brief presentation by each Mine representative on their general philosophy & policy around local procurement, including recent successes and improved business outcomes for the mine and suppliers. (5 mins each)
- A brief presentation by a supplier or two on positive experiences doing business with UH Mines. (10 mins)
- Scheduled series of five-minute 'elevator pitch' discussions (60 to 80 mins)
- Wrap up (5 mins)
- Continued Networking (15 mins)

**Setup and Configuration:**

- A booth for each mining company manned by representatives from procurement, maintenance & production.

**Personnel involved:**

- Key procurement managers
- Other key site personnel involved in procurement needs (e.g. engineering, maintenance, environmental, production)

**Potential Companies involved:**

- Bengalla Mining Company
- BHP/C-Res
- The Bloomfield Group
- Glencore
- Malabar Coal
- Mount Pleasant Operation - Austmine
- Peabody Energy
- Thiess
- Yancoal

**Not involved:**

- Muswellbrook Coal Company - not involved in Dialogue economic matters



**Registration:**

- Need to determine how registration will take place. We need people to register for events, but also to schedule chats with the companies.

**Catering:**

- Working Lunch, so no sit-down meals.
- Finger food (skewers, sandwiches, wraps, easy items)

**Dialogue Tasks:**

- Produce a 'cheat sheet' that could be provided to prospective suppliers in advance to ensure they have thought about a range of relevant considerations that mining companies may need to discuss.
- Develop a list or matrix of each company involved and the categories to which they each provide (e.g. regular or continuous tendering opportunities). This would help ensure that companies are having the right conversations with the right companies.
- Circulating a list of those attending, including a listing of key personnel at each mine in procurement, maintenance & production. This is a continual moving target for suppliers and will help forge contacts.
- Develop a mechanism or avenue by which attendees can exchange business cards, or register for a later discussion offline if attendees don't have the ability to speak with every company they wish to, and to provide feedback after the event (a survey could include a box to tick if they would like to be connected to any particular company).

**Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue  
Joint Economic and Social Development Working Group - 10 June 2020**

Agenda Item 7

**MINING PROCUREMENT INFORMATION HUB**

**Issue**

The Mining Procurement Information Hub provides a resource for local supplier businesses to better understand how they may interact and engage in procurement and tendering opportunities in the Upper Hunter.

**Background**

The Dialogue is working on finalising member content for the information resource.

Though this resource was recently created at the end of 2019 and the Dialogue's new website is expected to be live by October 2020, it may be worth checking with site personnel that all published details are still correct, and provide the opportunity to update/review content if required.

Update on visitation stats for the Procurement sections of the website over the last three months can be found below (February 25 to May 29):

<b>Page</b>	<b>Page views</b>	<b>Unique Page views</b>	<b>Avg. Time on Page</b>	<b>Entrances</b>	<b>Bounce Rate</b>	<b>% Exit</b>
/procurement	170	87	0:01:12	49	30.61%	23.53%
/procurement/bhp	42	30	0:00:54	14	71.43%	38.10%
/procurement/the-bloomfield-group	35	31	0:03:55	21	61.90%	54.29%
/procurement/bengalla-mining-company	23	19	0:02:45	6	33.33%	30.43%
/procurement/mount-pleasant-operation	22	20	0:03:41	6	66.67%	54.55%
/procurement/procurement-process	21	21	0:00:41	5	80.00%	33.33%
/procurement/peabody-energy	16	13	0:01:13	6	66.67%	37.50%
/procurement/thiess	13	8	0:00:47	4	75.00%	38.46%
/procurement/yancoal	11	11	0:00:25	0	0.00%	18.18%
/procurement/glencore	4	4	0:00:30	0	0.00%	25.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>0:01:36</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>48.56%</b>	<b>35.34%</b>

**FOR INFORMATION**

**Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue  
Joint Economic and Social Development Working Group - 10 June 2020**

Agenda Item 8

**UPDATE ON COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES**

Please see below for an update on the Dialogue's various communication and engagement activities:

***Website Refresh***

- The Dialogue is working with the Dialogue's Communications Working Group to progress and plan for a refresh to the Dialogue website. The current website is no longer fit for purpose and in recent times has been clunky, confusing to navigate, unable to update effectively, and is overly complicated and text heavy.
- Similar to the recent NSW Mining website refresh, it is hoped that refreshing the Dialogue website will make it more:
  - **Simple** - Clean, straightforward, and uncluttered appearance, concise information.
  - **Relevant** - Easier to edit and create new content to ensure it remains up to date.
  - **Dynamic** - Utilising picture/video content to show rather than tell what we do where possible.
  - **Reliable** - People know that they can head to the website and find what they want. If the website is unable to deliver their needs, they need to know they can easily engage with us offline to answer questions or retrieve information.
- The Dialogue will be working to review and revise content where possible to group the website under five key header topics:
  1. **About the Dialogue** - A summary of the Dialogue's purpose, our participants and information about our Working Groups/Steering Committees
  2. **News** - Latest News articles and Newsletters
  3. **Our Projects** - Information about specific environmental projects covering air quality, water, and rehabilitation
  4. **Community Engagement** - Information about our engagement projects (school tours, Virtual reality work) and community events we participate in
  5. **Business Support** - Procurement information and support for business stakeholders and information about business-themed events.

***School Mine Tours Program***

- The first half of the School Mine Tours Program schedule has been put on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions. Eleven schools and seven mine sites scheduled for 12 tours in May and June were advised in March of the need to postpone their tours. We are still closely monitoring the situation with the hope that a lifting of the restrictions will allow the 13 tours scheduled in July, August, and September to go ahead and potentially allow a rescheduling of the postponed tours if possible. At this stage, despite students and teachers heading back to school on May 25, excursions are not permitted and there is no indication of when they will be allowed. The program had been set for a record year in 2020 with 22 schools participating compared to 18 in 2019. The growth was due to three Scone area schools joining the schedule and St Catherine's High School returning to the program.

***Community and stakeholder engagement***

- The Dialogue's schedule for displays at community events has also been disrupted by Covid-19 with the Upper Hunter Show and Tocal Field Days cancelled. Next on the schedule are Broke Village Field Days and Singleton Show in September and the Hunter Coal Festival in October. Organisers are still planning on staging those events at this stage, however, the schedule could obviously be further impacted depending on whether or not the current social distancing restrictions are further relaxed.
- Our new-look and re-named newsletter was published in April. Now titled "The Dialogue", the newsletter has been redesigned and expanded to eight pages. Digital and print-ready versions have been shared with Dialogue stakeholders.

## **Media**

- The Dialogue continues to report on its activities through local media and on its Facebook page. Recent articles have included a report on the completed March meetings followed by an update on our activities under the Covid-19 regulations, an article calling for interest from potential community representatives to join the Dialogue's joint working groups, a story detailing the Dialogue's organisational structure and an article on how the Dialogue's VR video experience could be used in the new PRIME school educational program.
- The Dialogue secretariat has also further developed its social media strategy to ensure better on line penetration through regular social media and website reports on Dialogue activities as well as potentially sharing stakeholders' posts where appropriate.

## **FOR INFORMATION**

**Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue  
Joint Economic and Social Development Working Group - 10 June 2020**

Agenda Item 9

**UPDATE ON OTHER DIALOGUE WORKING GROUPS/COMMITTEES**

The Dialogue has several Committees and Working Groups with differing objectives. It is important to share information and knowledge amongst all Dialogue groups where relevant to help inform discussions. Please see below for updates on various Dialogue Working Groups and Committees:

***Joint Advisory Steering Committee***

The Joint Advisory Steering Committee is yet to meet in 2020, following the impacts of COVID-19 during the first round of Working Group/Steering Committee meetings. Regular communication has been provided to the JASC members to update on Dialogue secretariat progress and the outcomes of the Joint Working Group meetings.

The JASC is scheduled to meet next on **Wednesday 24 June 2020** from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, with a presentation from the Biodiversity Conservation Trust to better understand how this land is managed and what outcomes we are seeing in terms of increasing biodiversity and habitat from endangered species.

***Communications Working Group***

The Communications Working Group last met on **Tuesday 17 March 2020** via teleconference to discuss the key communication and engagement feedback received from 2019 Forum attendees. Key discussions included:

- Continued positive feedback on the school tours program and the proposed expansion to include several Scone schools in the 2020 program.
- The Website and social media were discussed, with members supportive of updating the website and increasing our social media presence and content.
- The Summary Forum video was well-received with members supporting continued content.
- Members noted the need to ensure the Dialogue is open and accessible to all, which will be reflected in more proactive engagement and regular updates in the Dialogue's newsletter.

The CWG is scheduled to meet **Tuesday 16 June** from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

***Joint Environment Working Group***

The most recent Joint Environment Working Group meeting was held on **Wednesday 11 March 2020**, with guest presentations from:

- Justine Cox (NSW Department of Primary Industries) - Justine presented on the preliminary findings from the ACARP Past and Present Mine Rehabilitation Project. Members were overall pleased that the results showed soils used in site rehabilitation had produced results that compared more favourably than analogue sites. However, ongoing drought conditions had impacted site rehabilitation, as well as unavailable and inconsistent historical rehabilitation data.
- Matthew Riley (NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment - Environment, Energy & Science) - Matthew attended to provide an update on DPIE-EES's recent change to hourly reporting of air quality information, which was undertaken as an 'interim' measure in response to community requests to shift to more timely reporting on air quality.
- Members also acknowledged and thanked Julie Thomas (Muswellbrook Coal Company) for chairing the Joint Working Groups over recent years. Paul Amidy (Glencore) has been appointed to the Chair position and will assume duties from the June 2020 meeting onwards.

The JEWG is scheduled to meet on **Wednesday 10 June**, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, prior to the JESDWG.

**FOR INFORMATION**

**Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue  
Joint Economic and Social Development Working Group - 10 June 2020**

Agenda Item 10

**OTHER BUSINESS**

***Keep It in The Regions - House Inquiry***

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Innovation, Science and Resources released a report in November 2018 following the Inquiry into how the mining sector can support businesses in regional communities. The government response to the report is yet to be provided.

***Updates from Working Group members***

To encourage greater awareness of items of interest across the Dialogue's network of stakeholders, the Dialogue Secretariat encourages Working Group members to share updates on their current or future activities and projects that may be of interest to the Joint Economic and Social Development Working Group members, or the Dialogue more generally.

**FOR INFORMATION**

**Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue  
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Agenda Item 11

**NEXT MEETING / CLOSE**

Members may note the next Joint Working Group meeting dates for 2020 is **Wednesday 9 September 2020**, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

**FOR INFORMATION**