

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 10 June 2020, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Attending

Ngaire Baker (Chair)	Mount Pleasant Operation
Debbie Barwick	NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce
Damien Butler	the Bloomfield Group
Helen Young	Thiess
Sue Gilroy	Singleton Business Chamber
Scott Fittler	Yancoal
Leah Scheepers	BHP
Jennifer Lecky	Muswellbrook Business Chamber
Bob Mackie	theresource
James Barben	NSW Minerals Council
Craig Milton	NSW Minerals Council

Apologies

Aleksandar Mitreski	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Anthea Craig	Thiess
Josh Harris	Glencore
Natalie Hewitt	Singleton Business Chamber

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all attendees and noted the apologies. Mr. Barben thanked everyone for their continued support and attendance during this uncertain time and noted that we will monitor COVID-19 restrictions closely regarding future meetings and events, and if needed may consider alternative arrangements and venues for future meetings.

2. Minutes and Actions from Previous Meeting

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

3. Impact of COVID 19 on 2020 Projects and Activities

Mr. Barben provided an update on the various impacts that COVID-19 has had on the Dialogue (e.g. events, school tours) and those which have been able to continue per normal (e.g. annual reporting projects, air quality report).

Members discussed the impacts across the Upper Hunter, and how the lack of face-to-face engagement may have affected the Dialogue's long-term engagement. While this is too soon to know, we have found personal interactions have worked well and will continue to progress with increased digital communications during this time.

4. Presentation: Debbie Barwick, NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Barwick provided an overview of the NSWICC services and programs that support over 530 indigenous businesses across NSW and the Hunter, noting the Chamber had grown considerably over the last 12 months, despite challenges with bushfires and COVID-19.

Ms. Barwick advised of programs and initiatives such as the indigenous-designed CCA vending machines which help support businesses. Ms. Barwick advised that there is an increasing maturity and professionalism of indigenous businesses that NSWICC is engaging with, and a lot of their work has involved tapping these indigenous businesses into mainstream business communities and capacity building initiatives.

NSWICC recently hosted an online session for GHD which allowed six diverse businesses to pitch and brief on their businesses, which has generated positive feedback so far. They are keen to increase involvement with the resources sector for new procurement opportunities.

Members were impressed with the level of services and programs offered to support these businesses and welcomed the NSWICC and Deb's involvement with the Dialogue.

ACTION:

- **Dialogue secretariat to share the NSWICC presentation.**

5. Business Support Service Proposal

Mr. Barben provided an overview of the proposal, noting the crisis appears to have moved beyond immediate and severe impacts far quicker than expected. As a result, the Dialogue would be looking to pivot/tweak the proposal's focus on more of the 'recovery' aspects.

Members welcomed the proposal and agreed that a recovery focus would greatly assist the Chambers and their business members with support.

Ms. Scheepers advised that BHP will be going through the Recovery phase shortly and arrangements would be finalised in the coming weeks. Local Chambers have been given more immediate support due to the essential nature of their services.

6. Update on Mining Procurement Business Events

Mr. Barben provided a brief update on the Dialogue's planning for 2020's business events and opened discussion to members to hear how the Chamber events had been impacted.

Ms. Lecky noted that the Great Cattle Dog Muster had been moved to 2021, however it had been difficult to plan ahead with so many unknowns. The MCCI would be meeting shortly, and Ms. Lecky advised she would be able to update the Dialogue with future plans after this meeting. MCCI are continuing to work with businesses in isolation. The MCCI Business Awards event was cancelled, however the awards were presented to recipients and generated local media coverage which was positive.

Ms. Barwick advised that they have had to cancel a number of events across the date, however, have a planning day coming up which will help to plan at least one face-to-face procurement-focused event in 2020. NSWICC is keeping a close watch on developments which will help with their planning.

Ms. Gilroy advised SBC is working with the Council and BHP regarding business support for Singleton businesses. SBS is optimistic of running the Hunter Coal Festival and the Business Awards, however the latter has been delayed once already and will likely need to be rescheduled a second time to November.

The Chair advised that the Cultural Spectacular has been moved to May 2021, however the showground had been very accommodating with rearranging events. Ms. Gilroy agreed and noted that despite the inconveniences experienced through COVID-19, it was pleasing to see an increased ability and understanding between businesses working together (e.g. venues, caterers, speakers, bands etc.)

7. Update on Mining Procurement Information Hub

Members noted that the Dialogue secretariat is looking to finalise this resource.

8. Update on Communications Activities

Mr. Milton provided an update on the Dialogue's website upgrades.

Mr. Mackie updated members on the various communications activities underway for 2020, noting these have been impacted considerably by COVID-19, however planning for future events and continued engagement via digital communications has been a priority in the meantime.

A recent article published in @theCoalface encouraged interested stakeholders to contact the Dialogue regarding committee/working group positions, which we will monitor in the coming weeks.

9. Update on other Dialogue Working Groups & Committees

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

10. Other Business

Ms. Scheepers advised that BHP would be shortly hosting a virtual coffee catch-up with Adam Lancey, General Manager, which provided a small group of stakeholders an opportunity to engage with Adam and discuss issues about Mt Arthur Coal and BHP in an informal setting. Members were pleased to hear this engagement continuing despite current meeting restrictions.

11. Next Meeting and Close

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 9 September 2020. The Dialogue secretariat will be reviewing the COVID-19 restrictions for public gatherings and will determine how best to undertake this meeting, although we anticipate this will likely continue as a face to face meeting by this time, albeit potential in a different venue. We will update members closer to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 2.30 pm.

Actions Arising from Meeting

Action	Responsibility	Progress
Debbie Barwick, NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce Presentation		
Dialogue secretariat to share the NSWICC presentation.	Dialogue Secretariat	Completed