

UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES









Workshops & Forums

Since the creation of the Dialogue, we have hosted various workshops to better understand community sentiment at town hall events across the Upper Hunter, including Singleton, Muswellbrook and Denman. Further, annual community Forums provide our wider stakeholders with an opportunity to provide comment on, and decide on the future priorities of the Dialogue and key projects.

Rehabilitation site tours

Community members of the Dialogue were invited to participate in rehabilitation tours at BHP's Mt Arthur Coal, and Glencore's Glendell and Mt Owen mines in 2012. The tours enabled stakeholders to get a better understanding of the various forms of rehabilitation being undertaken across sites.

Council & other briefings

The Dialogue secretariat has briefed Muswellbrook, Upper Hunter, and Singleton Councils, as well as various other community groups and Community Consultative Committees (CCCs), since establishing the Dialogue. As part of a renewed commitment to engage with key stakeholders, the Dialogue will continue to regularly provide briefings to organisations such as the Association of Mining Related Councils.

Newsletters

Early on in the Dialogue, regular newsletters were produced to keep community members aware of the progress of Dialogue activities. In 2017, we have sought to reinstate regular newsletters which are provided at the various community shows and other Dialogue events like the Annual Forum, as well as at our Resource Centre.









Community perception surveys

In depth qualitative surveys of past and present community members involved in the Dialogue were undertaken by the Hunter Research Foundation in both 2012 and 2016 to measure community perceptions of both the Dialogue and the mining industry, and identified a number of potential improvements in community engagement.

Community shows

The Dialogue regularly attends major regional shows and community events across the Upper Hunter. Community members can learn more about the Dialogue and key projects via the information marquee. The Dialogue secretariat collects feedback from residents through short surveys to help the Dialogue research matters of importance to the community.

Media stories

The Dialogue continues to promote results from our key projects across various media formats including radio (2NM live broadcast at 2016 Forum), television news stories (e.g. NBN News, ABC's Lateline and Landline), newspaper articles (e.g. Newcastle Herald, Singleton Argus, Muswellbrook Chronicle and Hunter Valley News) and other magazines and industry street press (e.g. @ the coalface).

School Mine Tours Program

As part of the School Mine Tours Program, students from Years 5 and 9 from across the Upper Hunter region will experience a tour of a local mine site twice throughout their schooling life to complement classroom learnings designed to fit in with their syllabus. Students are encouraged to ask questions and are required to complete worksheets as they learn about both the impacts and benefits that mining can have on their communities.









Dialogue website

Information on all Dialogue projects across the four key thematic groups is contained on the Dialogue webpage. Those wishing to access more information and in-depth reports can learn more about the Dialogue's creation and key projects. A wider website upgrade is planned for 2018, with a more dynamic format to be expected.

Dialogue Resource Centre

The Dialogue opened a Dialogue Resource Centre in the upstairs of the Singleton Town Square Shopping Centre in 2015 to establish a physical presence and embed itself within the Upper Hunter. It is open business hours Monday to Friday, with information and meeting rooms freely available to both industry and community members.

Educational videos

The Dialogue has recently filmed an educational video to provide information to the community about what actions industry partners take on windy days to minimise dust generation from their activities onsite and to ensure that the community's risk to exposure is reduced. This video emerged as an Emissions & Health Joint Working Group project and is due to be released shortly.

Student VR classroom materials

The Dialogue is partnering with the University of New South Wales (UNSW) School of Mining Engineering, and Mining Education Australia to produce a Coal Energy Awareness VR experience, that will enable students to be more informed about the layout and operation of coal mines and witness aspects of the operation not accessible to school group visits.