



Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue



IN THIS EDITION

SARAH TAKES THE CHAIR

Sarah Withell is the new chairperson of the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

THIESS JOINS THE TEAM

In an expansion of its role with the Dialogue, leading mining services provider Thies has joined the UHMD as an industry partner

EVENTS MEAN BUSINESS

Two new procurement-focused events have brought local businesses and the mining industry closer together with the aim of doing better business

PROJECT WORK PROGRESSING

The Dialogue is working on a number of projects covering economic, environmental and community issues

SCHOOL TOURS ROLL ALONG

The Dialogue's School Mine Tours Program is again putting hundreds of local students at the coalface

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FACE TO FACE AT THE FORUM

Annual event features major networking and ideas-sharing opportunity

Community and the mining industry will come together for a valuable opportunity to develop local business and share ideas at the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue's Annual Forum on November 19.

Following last year's hugely successful forum, the event at the Singleton Civic Centre will again feature a major networking session where business people can talk directly to the procurement departments of the Upper Hunter mining companies.

The 90-minute networking session will also feature displays by the Dialogue, mining companies and government departments to give community members the opportunity to talk with representatives about what they believe are current issues and learn more about the Dialogue's work and the progress of its ongoing projects.

As well as procurement and local economic development opportunities, the displays will feature information on communications projects, water usage and stewardship, rehabilitation and land management, air quality and long-term land-use.

The Dialogue's new Virtual Reality Experience will also be available for attendees to take a virtual reality tour of a working mine without leaving the auditorium of the Civic Centre.

As well as the networking and information-sharing sessions, the Annual Forum will also include presentations updating:

- The outcomes and progress of Dialogue's 2019 projects
- Upper Hunter air quality initiatives



ABOVE: Community, government and mining representatives network and share ideas at last year's forum.

- The NSW Government's long-term land use planning projects

Following the presentations and networking sessions, attendees will have the opportunity to help shape the future work of the Dialogue through group discussions aimed at prioritising ideas and potential projects.

The forum will also be part of a live broadcast of Hunter Valley Today on Radio 2NM.

Spaces for the forum are limited; people interested in participating should register their interest in attending via email to info@nswmining.com.au by Tuesday, November 12.

Full details of the forum are available online at www.nswmining.com.au/dialogue/events or by visiting the Dialogue's Facebook page.



Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue



SARAH TAKES THE DIALOGUE CHAIR

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue has a new Chairperson.

BHP's Sarah Withell is an experienced mining professional who lives with her family in the region and has had a long involvement in the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue.

As Chair, Ms Withell will head the Dialogue's Joint Advisory Steering Committee which includes community, mining and government representatives. It's an important committee that provides direction for projects seeking to address issues raised by Dialogue participants.

Past projects have included successful cattle grazing trials on rehabilitated mine land as well as initiatives to improve transparency, including the collection and publication of data on industry water use and mine rehabilitation performance.

Ms Withell is based at BHP's Mt Arthur Coal near Muswellbrook and is the company's Head of Health Safety and Environment Business Partnership – BMC and NSWEC.



The Upper Hunter Dialogue's new Chairperson, BHP's Sarah Withell is passionate about making sure the Dialogue continues to deliver projects and information that matters to the community.

Ms Withell is highly regarded in the community and amongst her industry peers. She was named 2019 "Exceptional Woman in Mining" at the Women in Resources National Awards and represented NSW at the National Women in Resources Awards in September.

BHP is an engaged member of the Dialogue and has a number of key people contributing to various projects and working groups.

Ms Withell said she was looking forward to her new role.

"The work of the Dialogue is really important and I'm excited about this new leadership role in our community," Ms Withell said.

"I've been a part of the Dialogue for a number of years and it's a fantastic way for the community, regulators and industry to work together on solutions for any issues of concern.

"An important part of the Dialogue is listening to the community. And I'm really passionate about making sure we continue to deliver projects and information that matter most to the community."

Ms Withell also praised outgoing Chair, Glencore's David O'Brien.

"He's been a great leader and contributor to the Dialogue," she said.

"His commitment and involvement over the past few years has greatly contributed to the Dialogue's success and continuing evolution."

NSW Minerals Council CEO Stephen Galilee welcomed Ms Withell as Chair and praised Mr O'Brien for his time in the role.

"We're grateful for David's strong guidance and leadership and the significant progress made in addressing key community concerns during his time as Chair," he said.

ON DISPLAY AND FULLY ENGAGED

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue continues to busily engage with its community.

Throughout the year, the Dialogue attends local events and shows across the Hunter with its interactive displays to educate people on the Dialogue's activities as well as conduct surveys to pinpoint the community's current issues and interests. In the past 12 months, the Dialogue has

attended or is scheduled to attend 11 events including the UHMD Annual Forum, Muswellbrook Christmas Spectacular, the Upper Hunter Show in Muswellbrook, Voice For Mining Family Day, Tocal Field Days, Mangoola Family Day, NSW Minerals Council HSEC Conference, Broke Village Fair, Singleton Show, Bengalla Open Day and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Hunter Valley Rugby League Day.

During the year, the Dialogue has also presented to its partners' Community Consultative Committees.





Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue



Local business people learn about procurement opportunities offered by the Upper Hunter mining industry.

NEW EVENTS MEAN BUSINESS

Two new events on the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue calendar mean business.

The Dialogue and local business chambers hosted procurement events in Muswellbrook and Singleton in August and September.

Both events were strongly attended by local business representatives eager to learn about current and upcoming procurement opportunities within the mining industry.

A Muswellbrook breakfast was hosted by Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry on August 13 while Singleton's turn came on September 12 with a lunch hosted by Singleton Business Chamber.

At both events mining industry leaders and procurement experts detailed how businesses could be involved as local suppliers.

Muswellbrook speakers included BHP Mt Arthur General Manager David Boshoff; C-Res Business Development Manager John Aurisch; MACH Energy Mount Pleasant Operation General Manager, Operations, Richard Bailey and Procurement Specialist Simon Collins; Bengalla Mining Company Procurement and Supply Superintendent Phillip Hollway; and Thies NSW Operations Manager Heather Parry.

Presenters at Singleton included Bloomfield Group Procurement Manager Valmir Winkler and Contracts Superintendent Sally



ABOVE: Procurement and Supply Superintendent Phillip Hollway talks about the opportunities at Bengalla Mining Company.

Bergmann, Thies General Manager Supply Chain Phillip Woods, Peabody Energy Australia Commercial Manager Mardus Uys and C-Res Business Development Manager John Aurisch.

At both venues, the rooms were abuzz with conversation following the speakers' presentations as business people took advantage of the networking sessions to have face-to-face discussions with industry procurement representatives.

The procurement events have been organised by the Dialogue's Economic and Social Development Working Group which was formed this year following community feedback in 2018 for more liaison between the mining industry and local businesses.

THIESS JOINS AS PARTNER

Mining services leader expands Dialogue role

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue has welcomed leading mining services provider Thies as a membership partner.

Thies and its employees are already actively involved with the Dialogue's projects and events, participating in the School Mine Tours Program and the Annual Forum.

As a membership partner, Thies will engage on key community issues and concerns in collaboration with the Dialogue's other industry, community and government partners.

The Dialogue welcomes Thies' expanded involvement – as a major contributor to the Upper Hunter mining industry.

Thies' input will be invaluable and complement the existing industry representation in the Dialogue's working groups.

For more than 25 years, Thies has operated in the Hunter Valley working to deliver social benefits through local employment and training, local procurement, community engagement and Indigenous affairs.

In its expanded role with the Dialogue, Thies joins existing industry partners including Bengalla Mining Company, BHP, Glencore, MACH Energy, Malabar Coal, Muswellbrook Coal Company, Peabody Energy, The Bloomfield Group and Yancoal.



Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue



PROJECTS UPDATE

Work is progressing on the Dialogue’s official projects – many of which were proposed by participants at last year’s annual forum.

Mining Procurement Information Hub

This project aims to collate a consistent suite of information from mining companies regarding their procurement processes and practices to improve the awareness and knowledge of engagement with industry for suppliers and other interested stakeholders. Information including website and tender links, fact sheets, purchase/contract ranges, insurance requirements, procurement categories and post-tender feedback will be published on the Dialogue website.

Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network Data

This project involves an independent analysis and interpretation of air quality monitoring network data (specifically PM10 and PM2.5) and other climate data to understand any changes in air quality in the Upper Hunter and compare air quality to other monitored NSW locations. This project will enable the Dialogue to provide factual information to stakeholders about the region’s air quality.

2018 Rehabilitation Results and Reporting on Buffer Land

The latest results from the annual Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments project have been collated for analysis. This project uses industry data to report on the

amount of new rehabilitation, and disturbance, biodiversity offsets and other land use types. With seven years of results, the project is now showing some clear trends, with the results for 2018 to be published on the Dialogue’s website. This year the amount of “buffer” land held by mining companies was also measured to provide transparency on the types of uses for this land including agricultural, residential, commercial and recreational uses.

2018 Water Accounting Framework Results

Detailed numbers tracking the mining industry’s water use, discharge and recycling have been updated to include the 2018 calendar year. The project allows the Dialogue to determine the amount of water entering and staying in the Hunter River system, and the amount used by the mining industry, agriculture, other businesses and residents. With the project in its fifth year of collecting data, the Dialogue can now track trends in water usage. The Dialogue publishes the results annually on its website.

Grazing Trials

The ACARP study looking at past and present grazing on rehabilitated mine land continues to progress with recent field assessments analysing soil profiles in



SCHOOL TOURS ON THE ROAD

The School Mine Tours Program returned to the road in August and September with 14 tours from seven schools scheduled across six mine sites.

This follows the May/June schedule which saw eight tours from 11 schools conducted across seven mine sites.

Now in its second full year of operation, the Dialogue’s mine tours are offered to

every school in the Singleton-Muswellbrook-Aberdeen catchment and this year’s program is scheduled to include 22 tours from 18 local schools across 13 participating mine sites.

The tours’ messaging teaches the students and teachers about the facts of mining including its impacts and benefits in our day to day lives.

rehabilitation that was completed over the last 15 years. A total of 23 field assessments were completed throughout June and July across four Upper Hunter member sites, providing the project with a good snapshot of changes in practices used and results to date. A report is due to be submitted in October.

Beneficial Reuse of Voids

The Dialogue is working on a summary document to bring together the various beneficial reuse of voids reports and related work to help improve stakeholder understanding of post-mining land use in the Upper Hunter. A draft paper is being reviewed for release.

Pilot Pathway for Post-Mining Land Use

This project is seeking to map out the process by which rehabilitated mine land can effectively transition to an alternate post-mining land use, and what key factors need to be considered to support these outcomes. The Dialogue is engaged in discussions with the Upper Hunter Economic Development Working Group which includes representatives from the Department of Premier and Cabinet, local government, Department of Planning and Environment, the Resources Regulator and other key stakeholders, with the project receiving strong support for a dedicated resource within government to progress work in this area.