



# Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue



## IN THIS EDITION

### FRESH FORUM SUCCESS

A refreshed format featuring increased engagement drew a record turnout to the Dialogue's Annual Forum

### GOLD MINE OF IDEAS

Participants at the Annual Forum have unearthed a gold mine of potential project ideas for the Dialogue

### HELP MAKE HUNTER BETTER

The Dialogue is looking for community representatives interested in helping make the Upper Hunter a better place for all

### SCHOOL TOURS HIT THE ROAD

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue's School Mine Tours Program is hitting the road for 2019

### BARILARO GETS UHMD BRIEFING

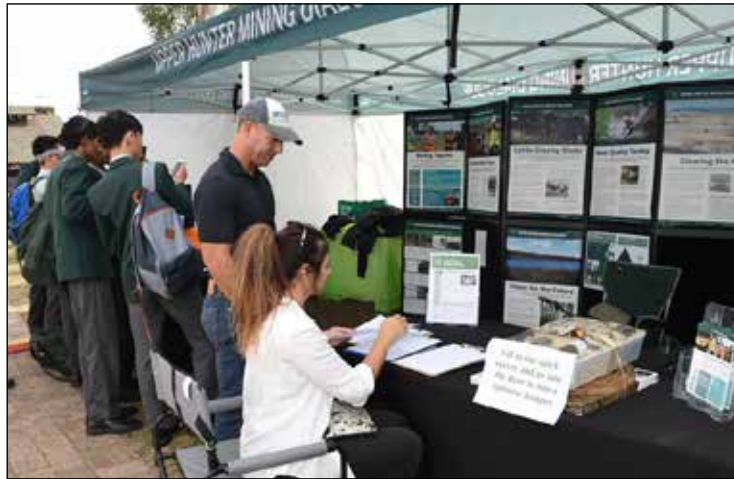
Deputy Premier John Barilaro gets a firsthand briefing on the Dialogue's activities during a visit to Upper Hunter mines

### Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

Unit 8 First Floor  
Town Square Centre  
159 John Street  
Singleton NSW 2330  
[miningdialogue.com.au](http://miningdialogue.com.au)



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**LEFT: Community representatives visit the Dialogue's display at the Tocal Field Days in early May. Tocal is typically the Dialogue's busiest event and this year was no exception.**

## ENGAGING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

### THE UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE IS ENGAGING WITH THE HUNTER COMMUNITY.

During late 2018 and into 2019, the Dialogue has presented at Upper Hunter mines' Community Consultative Committees (CCC) to update CCC members on the work of the Dialogue.

With the first round of CCC meetings now almost complete the community engagement schedule is being expanded to include presentations to local service groups such as Rotary and Lions clubs.

As part of its community engagement activities, the Dialogue also attends local shows and events with its interactive display to educate community members about its activities and projects. The engagement at the local events also allows the Dialogue to survey the community on current issues and interests.

So far in 2019, the Dialogue has been on display at the Upper Hunter Show, the Voice for Mining Family Day with the Newcastle Knights and Tocal Field Days. The display is scheduled to visit local shows and events throughout the year.

Groups interested in having the Dialogue present should contact: [info@nswmining.com.au](mailto:info@nswmining.com.au)

### WELCOME TO THE DIALOGUE

#### 2019 is shaping up to be a busy and exciting year for the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue.

Our very successful Annual Forum in November has given the Dialogue plenty of new project ideas.

Those ideas have been prioritised and are now being developed into potential projects.

The School Mine Tours Program is also rolling out with a record number of schools and mines involved. The program will see students from across the Upper Hunter tour a working mine and see first-hand how the mine operates.

In the months ahead, we will be able to offer people the chance to visit a mine without

actually setting foot in one with the development of the Dialogue's Virtual Reality Experience.

We have expanded our community engagement activities to make sure we get the Dialogue's positive message out to as many people as possible.

We also have some vacancies for community members on our working groups – if you're interested in helping making the Upper Hunter better for all, please let us know.

I hope you enjoy our latest newsletter, as always we welcome your feedback either via email on [info@nswmining.com.au](mailto:info@nswmining.com.au) or through our Facebook page.

#### Dave O'Brien

Chairman  
Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue



# Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue



## VIRTUAL REALITY 'GETS REAL'

**The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue is working on a project which will allow people to tour a coal mine without setting foot on a mine site.**

In conjunction with its popular School Mine Tours Program – which sees Upper Hunter primary and high school students physically tour working mines – the Dialogue is developing a virtual reality (VR) video which takes viewers through the mining process without visiting a mine.

The Dialogue has trialed a draft version of the VR video to very positive feedback and is now working on further developing the experience to include the Dialogue's educational messaging which explains the process of mining and discusses both the impacts and benefits of coal mining in our day-to-day lives.

Through the use of VR goggles, users see and hear the workings of a mine in a setting which looks and sounds like reality.

Video users have a 360 degree field of vision and can visit different locations and operations at a mine including inside working coal loaders and moving haul trucks.

As part of its educational program, the Dialogue aims to work with schools to allow students who are not located within travelling distance to mines to "visit" mine sites through the VR experience.

The development program also aims to see the VR experience shared with general members of the community through the Dialogue's community engagement program.

Work is continuing on the development of the VR video with the aim of finalising the "experience" in the next few months.



## FRESH FORUM FORMAT A SUCCESS

**A refreshed format featuring increased engagement between the community, business and the mining industry drew a record turnout to the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue's annual forum in November.**

With about 150 participants gathering at the Muswellbrook Race Club, the forum featured networking and information sessions where local business people and community representatives could visit more than 30 displays and talk directly to experts on subjects including procurement, rehabilitation, mine regulation, air and water quality and the progress of the review of the Upper Hunter Synoptic Plan.

The forum not only attracted more participants than previous years but also a greater spread of representation from across the Upper Hunter community including local business people.

As part of the refreshed format, the forum focussed on offering opportunities for local businesses to interact face to face with mining company procurement personnel.

The Dialogue's industry partners provided key personnel from their procurement departments so people could talk directly to the experts on how the industry and local businesses can do better business together.

The procurement exhibits were complemented by displays from both Singleton and Muswellbrook Business Chambers and business development officers from Muswellbrook and Singleton councils.

As well as the focus on business, the forum also featured displays from mining industry rehabilitation and air and water quality experts and exhibits from the Department of Primary Industry, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Planning and Environment, NSW Environment Protection Authority, NSW Resources Regulator and the University of Newcastle.

Following the networking sessions, participants formed into working groups to recommend solutions to issues as well as how to best take advantage of opportunities raised during the day. Those recommendations are now being developed by the Dialogue.



# Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue



## FORUM UNEARTHS GOLD MINE OF IDEAS

**PARTICIPANTS AT THE 2018 UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE ANNUAL FORUM UNEARTHED A GOLD MINE OF POTENTIAL PROJECT IDEAS FOR THE DIALOGUE.**



**Community Engagement** – Over the past few months, the Dialogue has been busy updating Upper Hunter Community Consultative Committees (CCCs) on the Dialogue’s work. With the initial round of (CCC) briefings almost complete, the Dialogue is looking to expand its engagement activities including presentations to more general community groups such as Rotary and Lions clubs.

**Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network Data** – the Dialogue is to establish a Project Steering Committee to investigate how network data can be used to assess long-term trends on PM10 and PM2.5 levels to provide factual information and insights on the current Upper Hunter regional data and how it compares with other NSW regions.

**Post-Mining Land Use Pathway** - the Dialogue will gauge Government interest in developing a pilot pathway for post-mining land use. With a view to simplify processes, the project will investigate mapping out key considerations, timeframes and challenges to mining companies in the transition to final land uses.

**Buffer Land Reporting** – with strong interest in the amount and use of buffer land throughout the Upper Hunter, the Dialogue will seek to define and collect additional information about mines’ buffer land areas as part of the collection of data for the ongoing UHMD Annual Rehabilitation Reporting Project.

**Beneficial Reuse of Voids** – the Dialogue will review and publish its Beneficial Reuse of Voids Report to improve understanding of potential post-mining land use in the Upper Hunter.

**Water Stewardship** – with water usage in the Upper Hunter identified as a strong community interest, the proposed project is aimed at gathering additional information from the Dialogue’s existing Annual Water Accounting Project to provide further context to annual water usage results and provide information to the community on the industry’s water stewardship projects.

At the forum, groups of participants from the community, industry, government and business brainstormed and developed ideas for future Dialogue projects. The result was an impressive and wide ranging list of potential projects.

Over the past few months, the Dialogue’s working groups and Joint Advisory Steering Committee have discussed the proposed project ideas and prioritised the suggestions. The Dialogue is now working towards developing some of the short list into projects. Potential projects include:

**Dialogue Procurement Hub** - The proposed hub would include direct links to, and information about, company procurement processes, provide information for suppliers regarding capacity building and how to engage with and respond to tenders. As a first step, the Dialogue is investigating if existing hubs and databases can be utilised.

**Mining Procurement Business Events** - the Dialogue is exploring a schedule of mining procurement-focused lunch events in partnership with local business organisations. The events would allow companies to present updates on their operations and advise of procurement opportunities as well as provide networking opportunities for companies and suppliers/businesses.

**STEM Education Program** – the Dialogue is continuing its discussions with Regional Development Australia (RDA) Hunter, regarding the introduction of a new Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) program into Upper Hunter schools including utilising the Dialogue’s School Mine Tours Program. The discussions with RDA could help facilitate a number of linked project ideas raised at the annual forum including arranging classroom mine personnel visits, utilising and developing VR materials for in-classroom learning, developing in-class teaching material relevant to the NSW school curriculum and improving training support for teachers.



# Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue



## HELP MAKE HUNTER BETTER

**Do you want to help make the Upper Hunter a better place to live?**

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue is looking for community representatives interested in helping the Dialogue address the cumulative impacts of mining through industry and community working together.

The Dialogue's Chairman Dave O'Brien said there were a number of community representative positions available on the Dialogue's working groups.

The working groups meet quarterly and play an important role by helping the Dialogue choose and implement its strategies and activities.

Community members can express their interest in joining the Dialogue at [info@nswmining.com.au](mailto:info@nswmining.com.au)

## SCHOOL MINE TOURS HIT ROAD

**The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue's School Mine Tours Program is hitting the road for 2019.**

The program allows local school children to tour working, open cut mines where they learn about the entire process of mining as well as the impacts and benefits of coal in our day to day lives.

Last year was the first full year of operation for the school mine tours program which saw 650 students from 17 schools take part in 17 tours across 12 mine sites.

With the final touches being put to the 2019 schedule, the program has 18 schools confirmed in 21 tours across 13 mine sites.

As one of the Dialogue's key activities, the School Mine Tours Program provides valuable education experiences for the students and their teachers by giving them a first-hand, hands-on education on the workings of the mining industry.

It is seen by the Dialogue as an important part of its mission to liaise between the mining industry and the local community to build understanding.

The program's fact-based, unbiased messaging points out the impacts of coal



mining and highlights the benefits coal provides in our lives. The Dialogue believes it is important that people know the facts about our largest industry rather than just being aware of the sometimes emotional debates.

The Dialogue offers the free tours to all schools from Aberdeen, Muswellbrook and Singleton and surrounds with Year 5 students from primary schools and Year 8/9 students from high schools invited to participate.

## A DIALOGUE WITH THE NSW DEPUTY PREMIER

Deputy Premier and recently confirmed NSW Minister for Resources John Barilaro (pictured centre) got a personal briefing on Upper Hunter Miner Dialogue activities when he recently visited Dialogue partner BHP's Mt Arthur Mine.

Accompanied by Upper Hunter MP Michael Johnsen, the Deputy Premier also toured Dialogue partner Peabody's Wambo Mine. The briefing, by NSW Minerals Council Policy Director James Barben, covered the Dialogue's origins, historical projects and current strategies identified at the 2018 Annual Forum. Deputy Premier Barilaro supported the Dialogue and recognised its value and contribution to making the Upper Hunter a better place for everyone to live.



**Deputy Premier Barilaro is flanked by, from left, Mt Arthur maintenance superintendents Geoff Pittman and Daniel McPhee, Upper Hunter MP Michael Johnsen, BHP's NSW Energy Coal Asset President Elsabe Muller, Mt Arthur Coal General Manager David Boshoff and NSW Minerals Council Policy Director James Barben.**