



Cattle Grazing Study

An Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue trial of grazing beef cattle on rehabilitated mining land shows rehabilitated mined lands can be used as commercially-productive pasture after mining has ended.

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue’s Grazing Study grazed cattle on rehabilitated pastures and compared the results to cattle grazed on nearby paddocks that have never been mined.

From June 2014, two lots of cattle were grazed on rehabilitated paddocks at Coal & Allied’s Hunter Valley Operations (HVO - a Yancoal-Glencore joint venture) site near Singleton and BHP’s Mount Arthur Mine site at Muswellbrook.

In both sets of trials, the cattle on rehabilitated sites gained more weight than the cattle grazing on the unmined or “analogue” sites located adjacent to the rehabilitated sites.

The cattle were also sent to market and tested with no worrying results.

The results from the rehabilitated and unmined paddocks were independently monitored and compared.

The study was designed and monitored by the NSW Department of Primary Industries in collaboration with the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Joint Working Group - Land Management, including representatives from

agricultural groups, local farmers, environmental groups, state and local government and the mining industry.

The trial also monitored the health of the cattle through blood tests and monitored the pasture, providing valuable information on the growth rates and feed quality of the rehabilitated land.



With the study comparing the results from two mobs of cattle at each of the rehabilitated and analogue paddocks,

both the HVO and Mt Arthur sites livestock’s weight gain outperformed the cattle grazing on the analogue sites.

Importantly, tests performed on the cattle and pasture feed showed no unusual results due to the pastures formerly being used for mining.