



Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue



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River and mine storage water tested for contaminants

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GRAZING TRIAL BEEFS UP WEIGHT

Trial shows rehabilitated mined land can be used for cattle farming.

SCHOOL MINE TOURS PROJECT HITS THE ROAD

UPPER HUNTER MINES BECOME GIANT CLASSROOMS FOR STUDENTS



The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue's School Mine Tours Program is back on the road for 2018.

The School Mine Tours Program started its busy 2018 schedule in May.

This year the program is scheduled for 25 individual tours which will see an estimated 1000 Year 5 and Year 9 students from 18

participating Upper Hunter schools tour 13 mine sites across the Upper Hunter.

The tours program aims to offer a fact-based, first-hand educational experience to teach local students about the impacts and benefits of coal mining in the Upper Hunter.

The Dialogue offers the free tours to all schools in the Singleton-Muswellbrook

educational catchment and the program uses educational materials and messaging developed by a Dialogue working group made up of teachers, community members, industry and local government representatives.

Above: King Street Primary School students at Mt Owen Mine in May 2018.

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Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

DIALOGUE WORKING TOGETHER

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue was established in 2011 by the region's miners in response to community concerns about infrastructure and services, mine rehabilitation, water and air quality.

The Dialogue is a collaborative effort that addresses the local community's priorities by understanding its concerns and then working together to develop and implement solutions.

Focus areas include: Water and Land Management, Emissions and Health, Social Impacts and Infrastructure.

The Dialogue is guided by its Joint Advisory Steering Committee and working groups which include community, industry and government representatives.



Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue



STUDY MEASURES WATER USE

NEW FIGURES SHOW INDUSTRY RELATIVELY SMALL USER OF RIVER WATER



The Upper Hunter mining industry is a relatively low user of water flowing through the Hunter River, according to annual figures recently released by the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

In 2016 the mining industry used just two per cent of the water in the Hunter River system according to the latest figures collated by the Dialogue's water accounting project. This compares to 36 per cent extracted from the river and used by non-mining businesses and residents.

The water accounting project's results also show most of the water used by the mining industry comes from sources other than the river.

The mines sourced 55 per cent of all the water they used from onsite rainfall and

runoff and a further 28 per cent was sourced from deep aquifers that are of limited use to other water users due to their high salinity.

Almost half the water – 47 per cent - used in the mining sector was recycled and re-used.

The water accounting project was initiated through the Dialogue to gain a better understanding of mining's interaction with water resources in the region and identify opportunities for water management.

The water accounting project focuses

on the Hunter River and its tributaries from Glenbawn Dam downstream to Singleton – where Upper Hunter mines and the major water supply dams are located – and collects the water usage data annually.

Upper Hunter mines get their water from a variety of sources and must be licenced for any water they take from rivers and groundwater.

According to the data released by the Dialogue, only 10 per cent of the water used by mines came from rivers and alluvial aquifers.

DIALOGUE LOOKS FOR MORE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue is looking for people who want to help make the Upper Hunter a better place for all to live. There are a number of community representative positions available on the Dialogue's Joint Working Groups.

The working groups meet quarterly and play an important role by helping the Dialogue choose and implement its strategies and activities including projects aimed at addressing mining impacts in areas such as air and water quality, land management and rehabilitation and planning the Hunter of the future.

The Dialogue is inviting community members for expressions of interest in joining the Land and Water Management and Emissions and Health Joint Working Groups.

Community representatives can express their interest in joining the Dialogue via email at info@nswmining.com.au



Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue



A new video illustrates and explains how Upper Hunter mine sites alter their operations to minimise dust impacts as part of the Dialogue's successful Weather Forecasting Project. The Clearing the Air video can be viewed at:

youtube.com/watch?v=q4TojwxKVRQ

DIALOGUE PROJECTS

The Dialogue has a number of ongoing projects as well as successful outcomes from past projects.

Current projects include:

- School Mine Tours
- Hunter River Water Quality Study
- Synoptic Plan Review
- Involvement in the Rehabilitation and Mine Closure Working Group
- Air Quality Factsheet

Ongoing and past projects include:

- Cattle Grazing Trials
- Weather Forecasting Project
- Clearing the Air Video
- Community Engagement
- Water Accounting Framework
- Rehabilitated Land Annual Report
- Community Research
- Social Housing

Full details of all Dialogue projects can be found at our website at:

www.miningdialogue.com.au

MAJOR PROJECT TESTS RIVER WATER QUALITY

RIVER AND STORAGE WATER TESTED FOR CONTAMINANTS

In a major project for the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue, river and mine storage water quality has been tested in multiple locations in the Upper Hunter.

Organised and funded by the Dialogue, the study was undertaken by the University of Newcastle's International Centre for Balanced Land Use with input from the Environment Protection Authority.

Through analysis of water and sediment samples from mine water storage sites as well as from the Hunter River, the project assessed the

quality of water being released from coal mines and power utility facilities operating under the Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme.

The Dialogue sees the water quality study project fitting perfectly into its brief to work towards reducing mining impacts on the community.

The Dialogue's research shows water quality is a concern for the community and the study allowed the collection of data on the current quality of the river water as well as assessment of potential risks, if any, for the future.





Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue



ENGAGING WITH COMMUNITY

DIALOGUE GOES FACE TO FACE TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE AND LEARN ABOUT EMERGING ISSUES



The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue is coming to an event near you!

As part of its quest to keep in touch with the community and up to date with issues, the Dialogue attends many local shows and events.

The Dialogue display features educational posters and reading materials and is manned by Dialogue members who are available to explain the role of the Dialogue and how its projects aim to make life better in the Upper Hunter.

At the community events, the Dialogue also conducts community surveys which track knowledge of the Dialogue and what the community sees as priorities.

Want to know more about the Dialogue?

Full details about the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue are available at the Dialogue's website:

www.miningdialogue.com.au

The website includes full details on all projects, industry, community and government partners and the latest activities of the Dialogue.

If you would like to catch up face to face, the Dialogue also has an office in Singleton at the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Resource Centre, Suite 8, First Floor, Town Square Centre, 159 John Street, Singleton.

The office also offers free meeting facilities and hot desks to industry partners and community groups.

GRAZING TRIAL BEEFS UP WEIGHT TRIAL SHOWS VIABILITY OF REHABILITATED MINED LAND



The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue's Cattle Grazing Trial has shown rehabilitated mining land can be commercially viable as grazing land. The trial saw cattle grazed on mined land at Mt Arthur and Hunter Valley Operations mines with their weight gains compared to cattle grazed on adjacent paddocks that had never

been mined. The four-year study, conducted and monitored by the NSW Department of Primary Industries, showed that not only could rehabilitated mine land sustain commercial grazing - cattle on the rehabilitated land actually put on more weight than the cattle on the unmined land.