

MINUTES

Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Joint Economic and Social Development Working Group Meeting

Upstairs of the Town Square Shopping Centre
Suite 1, 159 John Street, Singleton NSW 2330

Thursday 18 October 2018, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Attending

Ngairé Baker	Mount Pleasant Operation (Chair)
Scott Fittler	Yancoal
Kirsty Spiteri	The Bloomfield Group
Craig White	Bengalla Mining Company
Deirdra Tindale	BHP
Josh Harris	Glencore
Tony Chadwick	Singleton Shire Council
Mike Kelly	Muswellbrook Business Chamber
Gerry Bobsien	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Bob Mackie	theresource
James Barben	NSW Minerals Council
Craig Milton	NSW Minerals Council

Apologies:

Brett Wild	Branxton Greta Chamber of Commerce
David O'Brien	Glencore
Sue Gilroy	Singleton Business Chamber
Owen Ihlein	Singleton Business Chamber

1. Welcome and apologies

Mr. Barben opened the meeting and thanked all attendees for participating in the Joint Working Group, noting this is the first meeting following the recent realignment of Dialogue's priorities.

2. Presentation on the Dialogue and Realignment of Priorities

Mr. Barben provided a presentation on the Dialogue's establishment, key projects and priorities for 2018, noting that this has been a transition year for the Dialogue, through consolidating existing groups and establishing new communications and economic development working groups.

Mr. Barben noted the feedback from previous Forums, and the two distinctions between what this working group will be looking at, and what will remain within the remit of the JASC. Firstly, the Working Group will focus on how to improve the economic opportunities here and now by working with the SME sector and the mining industry. The JASC will seek to continue focusing on the longer term strategic economic diversification issues and building resilience in the community.

Mr. Barben noted the independence of the Dialogue from the NSWMC and the intent to provide balanced, fact-based information. Governance arrangements have been established to ensure the JASC is the key committee and that public-facing Dialogue activities are not advocacy-focused.

3. Working Group Terms of Reference & Membership

Mr. Barben provided an overview of the Working Group Terms of Reference, noting the high-level purpose and that the Dialogue was keen for input from members on specific objectives. Mr. Barben explained the rationale behind the working group was to strengthen business relations with the mining sector. Mr. Barben advised that the Dialogue is cautious about other work being undertaken in this domain and doesn't want to duplicate existing work.

Feedback from members included that the objectives stated were vague, and that the 'consider matters/impacts' was too general. Members encouraged more detailed advice regarding the purpose of the working group, specifically who the Working Group should be providing advice to, and whether there was an objective to gather information, or develop strategies for the Upper Hunter. Members asked what mechanisms there are to obtain feedback. Mr. Barben advised that the Working Groups and Forums were key opportunities, however the Dialogue could seek to gather these through information sessions, or subsets of the business community engaging directly. Mr. Barben noted the Dialogue is resourced to attend various community events and meetings and undertake relevant projects that the Committees and Working Groups may support.

Arising from this discussion, the objectives listed in the Terms of Reference will be updated to include:

- Facilitate communications between the business community and the mining sector by gathering information and sharing across the Dialogue and member networks;
- Identify economic development-related issues and direct to the appropriate organisations to be addressed, where possible;
- Consider developing projects to improve short-term economic development opportunities in the Upper Hunter, where they are yet to be addressed through existing initiatives; and
- Provide feedback and advice to the JASC on matters discussed and refer long-term strategic economic and social development matters to the JASC for consideration.

With regards to membership, Mr. Barben queried whether the Working Group supported expanding beyond the members currently involved

. Members agreed that the working group need not be bigger than it currently is. The Upper Hunter Shire Council was suggested as an appropriate stakeholder to engage with for this group. Ms. Bobsien advised that she would be able to brief the Council and seek their interest in participating.

Mr. Barben discussed the duties of the Working Group Chair and opened up the meeting to nominations from the Working Group members. Ms. Baker nominated for the position of Chair, which was supported by the Joint Working Group.

ACTIONS:

- **Dialogue secretariat to update the Terms of Reference to provide specific objectives as discussed, noting that Ms. Baker has been elected the Working Group Chair.**
- **Ms. Bobsien to discuss Upper Hunter Shire Council participation in the Joint Working Group and advise Dialogue secretariat of outcomes.**

4. 2018 Annual Forum Discussion

Mr. Barben provided an overview of the upcoming 2018 Forum, noting the intent to change the program for 2018 in response to stakeholder feedback. Mr. Barben noted that we are anticipating approximately 120 persons and have had 60 registrations so far. Mr. Milton noted there was a mix of participants across the various sectors of the community (industry, government, community). Members noted that a lot of information was being covered, and that a significant amount of the day was reliant on networking and information sharing.

Mr. Kelly shared several suggestions related to the Forum agenda:

- A greater linkage between School Mine Tours/VR technology, with the broader technology involved in mining. Question of whether TAFE NSW or the University of Newcastle should be invited to attend and discuss technology and skills.
- Involvement of schools on the day? Mr. Barben advised that students have been previously invited and that we have a school on standby, pending total numbers of registrations.
- Involvement of key mining suppliers, e.g. Thiess? Mr. Harris confirmed that he could seek Thiess' participation through Glencore.
- Involvement of proposed projects that are yet to commence operation. Mr. Barben advised that

Malabar Coal has been invited to attend, although has limited capacity at this stage. The Dialogue would certainly welcome these organisations and highlight what opportunities might exist for businesses, although being cautious that this isn't perceived as an industry expo.

- Suggestion for Duane Dowell from the Muswellbrook Race Club to provide an overview of the club and their involvement across the Upper Hunter.

Members discussed what the radio component would involve, noting that this will involve brief interviews with key Forum participants.

Working Group members were encouraged to consider thinking about what materials they could bring to the Forum to provide information to attendees on their business development activities. The Councils noted that they will likely need to pull some of this information together, and the Business Chambers identifying that they would be able to display content. Mr. Chadwick advised that he would need to seek the Council's permission before committing, and any materials would be pitched at a business development level, which Mr. Barben supported and encouraged.

ACTIONS:

- **Dialogue secretariat to update the Forum program to include proposed local projects, key suppliers to industry, TAFE NSW, and the Muswellbrook Race Club in proceedings.**

5. Update on other Dialogue Working Groups

Mr. Milton provided a brief overview of the activities of the other Dialogue Working Groups, noting the key outcomes of recent meetings.

6. Other business

Mr. Barben noted the Upper Hunter Economic Forecast, included for interest, noting the employment figures and housing affordability, and the residence of employees outside the area were of interest.

7. Next Meeting/Close

Mr. Milton noted that the Dialogue secretariat would seek to reconvene the Working Group in early December to discuss the Forum outcomes.

The meeting closed at 11.10 am

Actions arising from meeting

UHMD Joint Economic and Social Development Working Group Meeting

Action	Responsibility	Status
Terms of Reference and Membership		
Dialogue secretariat to update the Terms of Reference to provide specific objectives as discussed.	Dialogue secretariat	Completed
Ms. Bobsien to discuss Upper Hunter Shire Council participation in the Joint Working Group and advise Dialogue secretariat of outcomes.	Ms. Bobsien	Completed
2018 Annual Forum		
Dialogue secretariat to update the Forum program to include proposed local projects, key suppliers to industry, TAFE NSW, and the Muswellbrook Race Club in proceedings.	Dialogue secretariat	Completed