

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

Wednesday 11 September 2019, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Attending

Ngairé Baker (Chair)	Mount Pleasant Operation
Aleksandar Mitreski	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Anthea Craig	Thiess
Craig White	Bengalla Mining Company
Damien Butler	The Bloomfield Group
Leah Scheepers	BHP
Mike Kelly	Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Scott Fittler - via teleconference	Yancoal
Sue Gilroy	Singleton Business Chamber
Tony Chadwick	Singleton Shire Council
Bob Mackie	theresource
James Barben	NSW Minerals Council
Craig Milton	NSW Minerals Council

Guests:

Dr. Anthea Bill	Hunter Research Foundation (HRF) Centre
Prof. Will Rifkin	Hunter Research Foundation (HRF) Centre
Kim Britton	Hunter Research Foundation (HRF) Centre
Natalie Hewitt	Singleton Business Chamber

Apologies:

Deirdra Tindale	BHP
Josh Harris	Glencore
David Gatwood	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Brett Wild	Branxton Greta Chamber of Commerce

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all attendees and noted the apologies.

2. Minutes and Actions from Previous Meeting

The minutes were accepted by members with actions from the previous meetings noted.

3. Presentation: Hunter Research Foundation Centre

Dr. Anthea Bill and Prof. Will Rifkin provided a summary of recent survey results from the Economic Indicators report, as well as an overview of the broader research work the HRF Centre is undertaking, including their involvement in the Committee for the Hunter.

Members found the presentation useful and informative, recommending that the HRF Centre continues to engage with the Dialogue in providing data regarding economic diversification.

Members provided some suggestions for other data sources which could assist in measuring the Upper Hunter economic situation, including business vacancy rates, and whether any comparison work with other regionally based economies similar to the Upper Hunter. HRF Centre advised that they do undertake a 'second city' study looking at other large-scale towns such as Wollongong, Geelong etc., alongside Newcastle and the Hunter.

Members discussed the Committee for the Hunter, noting the potential for the NSW Minerals Council to be involved. Members noted that some mining industry-related members were already involved, however this appeared to be limited. Members commented on the significant fee structure for organisations, noting this could inhibit widespread involvement and take up. Members supported the Dialogue secretariat liaising with the NSWMC CEO to investigate the potential for joining the Committee.

ACTION:

- **Dialogue secretariat to discuss with NSWMC CEO to investigate the potential for joining the Committee.**

4. Mining Procurement Information Hub

Mr. Milton provided a summary of the intent of the project, noting the revised form has recently been sent out to industry contacts. Industry members indicated this approach has provided more direction and that this request was being followed up internally across all sites.

Mr. Kelly suggested that the form include an opportunity for sites to provide 'Key Personnel' and list any relevant contacts. Further, Mr. Kelly recommended the standard categories of procurement include 'spare parts'.

Mr. Barben noted there will be ongoing maintenance of this data and it will need to be updated every 12 months or so to ensure accuracy.

ACTION:

- **Dialogue secretariat to update information request to include key personnel and 'spare parts' in the standard categories of procurement.**

5. Mining Procurement Business Events

Mr. Milton provided a brief overview of the Mining Procurement Business Events that have been undertaken in collaboration with local chambers to promote procurement processes and opportunities, noting the limited feedback received had been helpful in determining the success of the events and how these may be refined to improve value and relevance for attendees in the future.

Member feedback was overall positive from the Muswellbrook event, with the Chamber happy to co-host a future event with the Dialogue. Members felt the information hub content will supplement the information received at these events. Singleton Business Chamber also supported this occurring as an annual event.

Members suggested the potential for members to rate the speakers during the session, via SLIDO or a similar app, that can provide feedback in real time.

6. Analysis of House Inquiry Recommendations and Dialogue Projects

Mr. Milton provided a brief overview of the key relevant inquiry recommendations and the actions the Dialogue is progressing that seek to address these. Members supported parking the project until such a time that there is any movement to report on behalf of the government.

7. 2019 Annual Forum Planning

Mr. Barben provided an overview of the 2019 Annual Forum Agenda and encouraged feedback from members to help guide the discussion sessions. Members were supportive of a similar approach being undertaken in 2019 that focuses on themes, identifying key issues, and what projects or activities the

Dialogue can undertake to address them.

Members queried whether school students would be involved in 2019, given this has provided positive feedback in previous years. Mr. Mackie advised that the Singleton Civic Centre is a far larger space than the Muswellbrook venue and there is more opportunity to involve them this year.

8. Update on Communications Activities

Mr. Mackie provided an update on the current projects and activities, noting the success of recent school mine tours. Members queried whether there was any feedback or promotion being undertaken on the school's side regarding the tours, whether via school newsletters or websites.

Mr. Chadwick discussed adult site tours, although members noted that these had been raised in the past, however there are existing avenues via open days and the Hunter Coal Festival that provide these opportunities. Mr. Butler extended an offer on behalf of Bloomfield to Mr. Chadwick and other Singleton Council staff to join an upcoming site tour.

9. Update on other Working Groups/Committees

Mr. Milton provided an update on the Joint Advisory Steering Committee, noting the Dialogue's recent efforts to secure a new Chair in Sarah Withell to replace the vacancy left by David O'Brien, and discussions with local business chamber presidents regarding the vacant community/business position on the JASC.

10. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

11. Next Meeting and Close

The meeting closed at 2.30 pm.

Actions Arising from Meeting

Action	Responsibility	Progress
Committee for the Hunter		
Dialogue secretariat to discuss with NSWMC CEO to investigate the potential for joining the Committee.	Dialogue secretariat	Completed
Mining Procurement Information Hub		
Dialogue secretariat to update information request to include key personnel and 'spare parts' in the standard categories of procurement.	Dialogue secretariat	Completed