

AGENDA

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 March, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Teleconference details:

Dial-in Info: +61 2 8319 9443

Participant Code: 117-225-08 / Organiser Code: 500-378-54

No.	Item	Attachment
1.	Welcome and apologies	
2.	Minutes and Actions from previous meeting	
3.	Presentation: Debbie Barwick, NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce	
4.	Outcomes from 2019 Annual Forum	
5.	Update on Mining Procurement Information Hub	
6.	Update on Mining Procurement Business Events	
7.	Update on Communications Activities	
8.	Update from other Dialogue Working Groups/Committees	
9.	Other Business	
10.	Next Meeting & Close	

**Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue
Joint Economic and Social Development Working Group - 11 March 2020**

Agenda Item 2

MINUTES AND ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

DRAFT 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

**Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue
Joint Economic and Social Development Working Group - 11 March 2020**

Agenda Item 3

PRESENTATION: Debbie Barwick, NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce

The NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce (NSWICC) is a non-Government, not for profit organisation established in 2006 to support Aboriginal People to establish and operate their own businesses and to provide a forum for Business owners to come together to network, to share and to learn from each other. It is the first Indigenous Chamber of Commerce in Australia and has built a respected brand as the peak body and voice for NSW Aboriginal business, representing the interests of over 4500 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Business Owners today.

Debbie Barwick is the Chief Executive Officer of NSWICC and Chairperson of the First Australians Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FACCI) and is an award-winning Aboriginal Entrepreneur and Business Owner. Having dedicated much of her working life to supporting the aspirations of Aboriginal Entrepreneurship and Business, Deb is working with Government and Industry to ensure Aboriginal Business informs the development of Aboriginal Purchasing Policies. Deb is an experienced trainer on procurement and a respected advisor to State and Federal Governments on Economic Policy. She is an accomplished business owner herself, having operated several successful enterprises over the past decade including Winya Indigenous Furniture.

FOR INFORMATION

**Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue
Joint Economic and Social Development Working Group - 11 March 2020**

Agenda Item 4

OUTCOMES FROM 2019 FORUM

Issue

It is important to reflect on the recent 2019 Forum and review the feedback received from stakeholders via the discussion sessions and the participant survey to evaluate the success of the event and determine the Dialogue's future priorities and activities.

Background

The 2019 Forum was held on 19 November 2019 at the Singleton Civic Centre, with over 150 attendees participating in the event's morning presentation session, an information and networking session, and an afternoon discussion session.

The discussion sessions provided an opportunity for Dialogue stakeholders to provide honest and frank feedback on what is working well, and where the Dialogue could improve across five key themes:

1. Economic and Social Development
2. Stakeholder Engagement and Communications
3. Air Quality, Emissions and Health
4. Land Management, Rehabilitation and Land Use
5. Water Quality and Stewardship

The feedback from the 2019 Discussion Sessions has provided a range of considerations for the Dialogue's Working Groups and Steering Committees to help determine the Dialogue's priorities, projects and activities to be undertaken in 2020. A summary document of the feedback received (Attachment A) has been included for discussion

Further, the Forum Participant Survey (Attachment B) has useful feedback on how the 2019 event was perceived by stakeholders, as well as help the Dialogue consider how we may improve future events.

The 2019 Forum Report is also being prepared, which will contain an overview of the day, the feedback received, and a summary of the projects undertaken by the Dialogue in 2019.

Recommendation:

- **That the Working Group review the Summary of the Forum Discussion Session and the Forum Participant Survey and discuss which issues the Dialogue could play a role in addressing through projects in 2020.**

FOR DISCUSSION

Attachments:

- A. Feedback from 2019 Forum Discussion Sessions**
- B. Results and Feedback from 2019 Forum Participant Survey**

**UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE 2019 FORUM
DISCUSSION AND FEEDBACK SESSIONS
Tuesday 19 November 2019**

Key Questions:

- 1. What are we doing well in this theme? What should we keep the same?**
 - Participants are to consider any past or current projects, activities or initiatives that have provided positive outcomes for the Upper Hunter.
 - These could be Dialogue or industry projects, or look further afield at local or state government, business, or community initiatives.

- 2. What are some opportunities for improvement?**
 - What can industry do better in terms of this theme? Spend some time discussing any ideas that may address issues in this theme.
 - Focus on 2 or 3 ideas or suggestions identified by your group and discuss in as much detail as possible about issues related to that theme - we want to get to the core of the issue.

1. Economic and Social Development

- **Improve stakeholder understanding of the Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Project** - There is no information about who is leading this project, what its purpose is, how it is relevant to the community, and whether it is successful? Given there is little outward reporting to the wider Upper Hunter stakeholders on a potentially important project for the region as a whole, the Dialogue could assist by liaising with the NSW Government and sharing their work and key findings to help improve community understanding on efforts to diversify the Upper Hunter economy.
- **Address the skills shortages and demand for trades trainees, apprentices, and graduates in the Upper Hunter** - There's a long-term decline and gap in the pipeline of suitable candidates. The Dialogue could work with industry partners to determine whether any mining companies or their suppliers require any specific trades and promote these needs to the local community and education and training providers. The Dialogue could support this idea by linking to existing job advertisements or careers portals on the Dialogue website (via a 'Jobs Hub'). This would also help to articulate the broad range of careers that are available in industry.
- **Refining the Procurement Information Hub** - Participants provided positive feedback on the site from initial observations, however given its recent launch few participants had the opportunity to review in full. Need to complete outstanding information and determine how to improve the resources offered and increase engagement in the long-term. The Dialogue can consider linking to other existing hubs (e.g. Localised Singleton, HunterNet etc.)
 - Smaller companies are interested in supplying to mines but may struggle with paperwork (i.e. the procedures and attachments required to accompany tender applications) - Consider developing a proforma template seeking consistent generic information for local companies to complete and attach to the tender for jobs/supply of product automatically without having to do each time.
- **Refining the Business Events** - The 2019 events were well received, and feedback showed they were a step in the right direction as participants valued the opportunity to have face-to-face discussions. Forum participants suggested the Dialogue seek to expand the format of these events in 2019 by considering including different themes to keep it fresh, engaging and relevant to attendees:

- Longer more detailed workshop-style events that delve deeper into the procurement process
- Focus on how to overcome barriers to access
- Capacity building for relationship development skills of local businesses
- Incorporating Meet the Miner or Buyer programs or initiatives
- **Determine if any opportunities to standardise mining procurement/induction requirements could improve supplier engagement with industry in the Upper Hunter** - Participants provided feedback that mines across the Upper Hunter have individualistic approaches to doing things onsite. The Dialogue could consider liaising with industry partners to determine what commonalities exist across industry and look at developing some sort of standardisation aid or tool for mining, similar to a building/construction white card, to help identify a standard level of skills, training or requirements that are required across all sites. Specific comments related to:
 - Businesses advised of the need for one regulatory body that identifies standards for equipment and inductions that are universally accepted. While this is a good idea, it may be potentially difficult to implement. The Dialogue firstly needs to understand if this is possible, and if not, what the reasons are. Potential reasons may be site legal requirements, due diligence, each site has standards that fit in with their own risk management system.
 - Another standardisation idea related to electrical or hire services, who reported that although they have equipment that meets the required Australian standard, they receive conflicting advice at different sites across the Hunter as to how their products need to be labelled or coloured onsite. The Dialogue could assist in getting some agreement across operations.
- **Improving information about induction requirements** - Supplier participants reported instances where staff entering and exiting mine sites to undertake business can feel 'stuffed around' due to not being made aware of the induction process or other site requirements from the company. If sites were aware of these requirements involved, they could factor these into their tender, but due to a lack of awareness, this can cause supplier staff to work overtime. The Dialogue could help improve supplier understanding via an 'Induction Hub', or minor amendments to each company's page on the Dialogue website that provides specific guidance regarding insurances, induction requirements, medical requirements. This is likely to be relatively similar across sites, but the Dialogue could establish a generic induction process to guide.
- **Greater focus on contemporary social issues** - As many of the initial social issues raised when the Dialogue was first established have been addressed through the Social Impacts and Infrastructure Working Group projects, the Dialogue may need to consider how we can facilitate progress in terms of emerging social issues 2020. This may involve identifying initiatives and exploring opportunities regarding social research of issues in the region to better understand our stakeholders. The Dialogue could seek to leverage off work that the Hunter Research Foundation (HRF) Centre has done through economic and social surveys, e.g. an analysis of HRF Centre data on housing prices to create a narrative about long-term economic diversification in the Upper Hunter and how this is changing over the years (which would likely show that mining's share of economy is decreasing over time meaning the region's economy is diversifying).

Other considerations:

- **Feedback about engaging the NSWICC in Dialogue activities** - Debbie Barwick has joined the Joint Working Group and will present on the Chamber's activities in March.
- **Addressing industry image images and contribution to local economies** - Feedback on these was prominent in most table discussions. However, this particular matter is more within the remit of NSWMC advocacy rather than for the Dialogue to pursue as a project or activity. The Dialogue will continue to focus on promoting positive stories about the projects and activities we are undertaking in the Upper Hunter. For reference, key questions posed included:
 - Why is the industry not attracting quality applicants?

- What can the Dialogue do to improve their image and showcase what careers the industry can provide?
- Better coordination of social investment activities/investment.
- Communication about the spend of mining in Upper Hunter communities
- **Future careers** - Participants encouraged the Dialogue to seek to link career pathways to futuristic jobs that appeal to the youth (e.g. autonomy, mechatronics).
- **Mining industry in participation in local communities and economy** - Participants provided feedback encouraging industry employees to actively participate and support community cultural and sporting events or competitions. They felt this could provide an opportunity for these staff to explain what contribution the mines make to the local economy (e.g. supporting community groups, improving skills and training across the region).

2. Stakeholder Communication and Engagement

- **Evaluate the School Mine Tours Program**
 - Participants suggested that the Dialogue survey those involved in the School Mine Tours Program to date to determine their satisfaction with the experience and how they could be improved. This will likely need to be teachers only for existing tours, as students have moved on up to 2-3 years ahead of their date of tour from when the pilot program commenced. A quick survey after the completion of tours from this point forth would provide incremental feedback.
 - Participants suggested sustained engagement and building on the initial relationship from the tour by engaging with students in the classroom before/after the tour. This may better help the syllabus connect to the tour.
 - Participants were keen to expand the tours beyond the Upper Hunter into the Lower Hunter, Sydney and Newcastle schools. This is dependent on the sites undertaking the tours and the program already has a significant impost on site resources across the Upper Hunter.
 - Participants encouraged the Dialogue to leverage off parents, siblings and other key family members to expand community engagement with the tours to help the broader community.
 - Reinforce key messages regarding what the tours are actually about (neutrality and learning) to dispel false information.
- **Utilise existing networks and community avenues to better distribute Dialogue material** - Consider promoting the Dialogue newsletter in libraries or markets, sending to all relevant government departments, or linking in better with local publications like @theCoalface to share newsletter information.
- **Share stats on the Dialogue website, social media and newsletter readership** - Participants were keen to better understand the visitation rates of the Dialogue website, Facebook page and newsletters to determine how effective we are at communicating our stories. The Dialogue can easily prepare a regular update to the Communications Working Group on this information to help monitor what is working well and what needs improving.
- **Making the Forum more accessible** - The Forum is open to all community members to attend. The Dialogue sends out an invitation to all stakeholders on our database (approx. 500 contacts). However, there is a perception that the event is an exclusive event for industry or representatives of business and other organisations, and that there is no opportunity for the general community to be involved and provide input into how the day will run. The Dialogue could explore how to engage more proactively with prospective participants throughout the year to ensure that everyone knows the Forum is inclusive, and there is an opportunity for anyone to provide input and feedback into the program to ensure this event provides value for those attending.

Participants noted the lack of community engagement and recommended that attracting more community members be the Dialogue's priority for future events.

- **Making the Dialogue more accessible** - Participant feedback demonstrated that certain stakeholders have a limited understanding of how the Dialogue works in terms of organisational structure, processes, key objectives, frequency of meetings and how to gain access or approach the Committees and Working Groups. The Dialogue could help facilitate a better understanding by revising relevant sections of the website that provides an overview, as well as by providing a regular concise Dialogue summary in each newsletter edition given that new readers may access these resources at any time without full prior knowledge of the history of the Dialogue.
 - Participants also provided feedback that they would like to see greater involvement of the community in the Dialogue's Committees and Working Groups. The Dialogue may need to make it more explicit which working groups are open to all community members to attend and that a simple registration will enable their attendance.
 - Participants were keen to reverse the process and felt that getting the community to present to mines would be a worthwhile exercise compared to the usual mining companies presenting to the community at Working Group meetings and future Forums. It could be worth seeking a presentation from the members of the community actively campaigning on air quality to better understand their concerns.
- **Continue face to face and proactive engagement with stakeholders** - Participants welcomed the Dialogue's attendance of major regional events that provide value to the Dialogue in terms of engagement, as well as regular presentations to CCC's, councils and other key community groups. Suggestion to keep this flexible and look for any available avenues (online and physical) that will achieve the desired results.
- **Revitalisation of the name or brand?** - There was some feedback that perhaps the Dialogue brand was not cutting through and that consideration be given to a new name or brand.
- **Leveraging Dialogue partner networks to share content** - Participants identified that the Dialogue could improve the way we share content by utilising other networks to spread our message and vice versa.
- **Further engagement with secondary students on land use** - Participants were keen to see the Dialogue engage with local secondary students particular on the issues of post-mining land use of mine sites - many of these students may be future residents of the region and may provide feedback that differs from conventional idea. Participants suggested hosting a competition open to school or university students.
- **Better use of website and social media** - Participant feedback pointed to issues with the website user interface, buried information and connection/navigation issues. The Dialogue acknowledges that the current website is constrained by poor IT infrastructure and an inability to significantly change content. The Dialogue website will likely be upgraded in the latter half of 2020 and will seek to address these issues and present the information in a more streamlined manner, with the ability to make edits where necessary. Another suggestion was for the Dialogue to better leverage other comms channels, e.g. government information, fact sheets and videos. This matter was discussed earlier in 2019 with various representatives of the Joint Environment Working Group and would be worth following up in 2020 to ensure the Dialogue is sharing relevant content from government partners.
- **Virtual reality and video resources** - Can we make the video freely available to those who have VR headsets? Is there a way to recut the video so that it can be viewed as a standard video as well? Participants also suggested filming some videos to get our messages across rather than relying only on text, e.g. interviewing students after a tour. Participants also suggested the sites could arrange for their tours to be filmed, and to promote on their own socials, and share with the Dialogue to promote.

3. Air Quality Emissions & Health

- **Promote findings of Air Quality project** - Participants responded positively to the ERM Air Quality project presentation overall and were keen to see what the full outcomes of this analysis would provide, given the ongoing recent poor air quality the region is experiencing. The Dialogue has an opportunity to provide some factual analysis to the community based on this independent data and can investigate any other innovative ways to provide/showcase this information. Participants were keen to see independent reporting of this analysis, with ERM undertaking the study and CSIRO
- **Provide information on industry air quality management practices to clarify community expectations**
 - There is a mismatch between results presented and the air quality the community is currently experiencing, given the data being analysed was between 2013 and 2018. This highlights the gap between community expectations of air quality management and what the mines in the region are legally permitted to do within their scope of operations. There is an opportunity for the Dialogue to make it clear through the air quality analysis report what mines are legally permitted to do to improve community understanding.
 - Participants also raised the cumulative impacts of air quality and what each individual mine is doing to manage cumulative impact across the region. There is an opportunity to reshare the actions that mines take to reduce air quality when poor air quality is forecast via the Clearing the Air video and demonstrate that industry actively forecasts and responds to poor air quality by adapting their site practices.
 - Much of the community remains unaware of what practices the industry has in place to manage air quality onsite. The first line of engagement could be with site CCC's and encourage these members to share any publicly available air quality analysis and results with their networks. Furthermore, mining company employees further down the ladder could be better utilised and encouraged to share this information within the community.
 - Participants want to see more reaction to short term spikes in dust measurements from both regulators and miners. Is this done relative to 24-hour criteria? The Dialogue could help facilitate this information gap by finding out what industry is doing in this area and communicate to stakeholders.
- **Working with OEH to provide feedback on improving air quality monitoring data access and content** - Participants were interested in visualising the data analysis via an app that covers a 24-hour basis. It may be worth communicating this to DPIE OEH that such an app would help improve understanding within the community, as opposed to a website that stakeholders may find difficult to navigate. Participants also recommended sharing OEH and EPA material on the Dialogue website to promote these alongside existing resources.
- **Revisiting previous dust composition studies** - Previous studies have indicated that there is a cumulative impact on certain Hunter regions affected by air quality, e.g. Camberwell and Bulga, which can find up to 35% coal dust. Perhaps it is worth revisiting the surveys/studies looking at dust composition. However, there may be differences in results, as the original study was conducted following a period of rainfall, after a previous prolonged dry spell.
- **Provide information on industry drought preparation** - Participants were unsure of what planning industry undertakes for water cart usage/dust suppression based on potential for water restrictions. Relevant across the three environment themes, the Dialogue could assist in preparing and communicating some information about how the industry is preparing for drought and projecting water use for the coming years.
- **Particulate matter and human health** - Participants were not sure what the exact correlation is between increase in PM10 and 2.5 on human health and considered how the Dialogue could help to communicate and monitor this issue? The Dialogue could assist by distributing the DPIE OEH's 'Mine Dust and You', and 'Air Quality' Fact Sheets, and could send to sites to attach with employee communications.

- **Engaging with the health sector regarding air quality impacts/insights** - Participants recommended the Dialogue seek to engage with health professionals to understand the exposure risk to human health from elevated PM10 and PM2.5 particles in the region, and better manage the available information to allow health professionals help the community. It could be worth seeking a presentation from David Meredith at Coal Services to update the Joint Environment Working Group on this matter, as well as seeking a meeting with Doctors for the Environment if possible, to better understand their concerns.
- **Sustained industry management of air quality practices** - Participants were keen for industry to continue their focus on training employees and empowering them to take responsibility for their air quality impacts as everyone should be doing what they can to reduce emissions. This includes all the actions as listed in the Clearing the Air video.
- **Innovative use of air quality data** - Participants acknowledged that the DPIE (Environment, Energy and Science) air quality monitoring network data provides the community with up to date information on air quality in the Upper Hunter. Feedback on how to further utilise this data included billboards of measured data, the development of an app, daily dust reports for the Upper Hunter and an enhancement of existing forecasting methods.
- **Focus on new rehabilitation** - Participants identified the imbalance between newly disturbed and newly rehabilitated land and that this continues to have an impact on the region's air quality.

4. Rehabilitation & Final Land Use

- **Grazing Trials/Studies on Rehabilitated Mine Land** - Participants advised that the Grazing trials were progressing well and were keen for the Dialogue to discuss and promote these results in early 2020 once completed. The NSW Department of Primary Industries has been invited to provide an update at the next Joint Working Group meeting.
- **NSW Government GIS Rehabilitation Portal** - Participants welcomed the release of this resource as it will help demonstrate that rehabilitation is being progressively completed and will be a positive story to share with stakeholders once launched. However, this continues to be a closed resource with limited input from industry, and limited access to provide feedback from the community.
- **Improve communication to demonstrate rehabilitation methods** - Participants commented on the lack of understanding from stakeholders on what the term 'rehabilitation' actually means, as it is defined as seeding rather than the mature rehabilitation the general community would expect. Participants discussed the use of biosolids/composts for rehabilitation, as well as recent studies on what species grow well on rehab land to facilitate pasture growth for final land use options. The Dialogue could help facilitate a better understanding of what mine rehabilitation involves by providing non-technical information and showcasing some Upper Hunter sites, what is involved, who is responsible, and what the different landform types, design types and erosion models are involved. Examples could involve the new Geofluc design of rehabilitation which leads to better shaping outcomes.
- **Rehabilitation Results Annual Fact Sheet** - Participants noted that it had been good to pull this information together and showcase results with transparent information between sites. The Dialogue could look to further enhance this resource by communicating some of the desired information above. Participants noted the need to change the methodology for communicating rehabilitation to improve understanding.
- **Virtual Reality Rehabilitation Video** - Participants reacted positively to these resources, noting this is a good example of quality rehabilitation that allows stakeholders to visualise something which is difficult to see without a familiarity of what rehabilitation involves.
- **More community access sites to view rehabilitation** - Participants discussed the fact that once people can access rehabilitation sites, visualise it and walk amongst it, they will have a far better understanding of the process and what is involved. The Dialogue could help facilitate a better

understanding of rehabilitation via revisiting the potential for establishing some viewing platforms, however this issue has been raised previously and there were council requirements, work health and safety, and access issues to consider.

- **Greater involvement of indigenous groups in rehabilitation and land management groups** - Participants noted the recent presentation from Local Land Services and Firesticks Alliance and encouraged the Dialogue to continue to engage with these organisations to contribute to land use planning and land management discussions in the Upper Hunter.
- **Case studies on post-mining land use** - Participants noted that there is little understanding of how sites can be used productively post-mining given there are few contemporary examples of this having been completed. The Dialogue could help improve education of potential reuse by showcasing sites in the closure phase that are looking to attract redevelopment opportunities e.g. West Wallsend and Rhondda. Different tables stressed the need to build in greater flexibility to approval for post-mining land uses that enable logical and needed industries to beneficially use this land post-mining, as the way we are going we will likely lose out on these opportunities and lock in uses that may not provide any benefit to nearby communities. The Dialogue could play a role in raising this awareness.
- **Focus on reducing the gap between annual rehabilitation and disturbance** - Participants commented that while there was no doubt rehabilitation was being undertaken, there was still disparity each year between rehabilitation and disturbance. The Dialogue may need to better demonstrate that disturbed areas are being rehabilitated either by showcasing photos from new large rehabilitation activities from the recent year. Participants identified the dust generation from active dump areas noting that this adds to the perception that rehabilitation is not being undertaken.
- **Investigate employment opportunities in rehabilitation** - The extent of mining across the region will provide significant jobs for both current and future generations in terms of rehabilitating sites to closure and relinquishment. Perhaps the Dialogue could investigate the economic contribution this may provide the region.

5. Water Quality and Stewardship

- **Water Accounting Framework** - Participants engaged in a discussion about consistent state-wide reporting using the WAF framework, similar to what is being done with the rehabilitation GIS portal. This would help ensure better forecasting of water supply and demand given recent drought conditions.
- **Develop rehabilitation case studies** - Participants discussed the possibility of developing case studies on the following issues:
 - Tailings storage and water treatment to show reclaimed water is used
 - Site forecasts for how to use water in ongoing drought conditions.
 - Water efficiency projects
 - Innovation
 - Ravensworth Greater Water Sharing Scheme
- **Revisit tank water quality study** - Given the continued poor air quality the region is currently experiencing, participants flagged if it is worth reviewing the Camberwell tank study for drinking water/tank water impacts from pollutants.
- **Examine water use of other industries** - Work with other sectors to utilise runoff and identify water quality needs. Perhaps the mining industry could help.
- **Investigate use of unused pit voids for pumped hydro** - This would ease pressure on current supply and enable to catch more water in storage.

Attachment B:

Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue 2019 Forum - Participant Survey Results

Response Rate

34 respondents from 145 attendees = 23.4%.

Key Observations:

- The majority of respondents were invited to the Forum directly via a Dialogue email, or were referred by a colleague
- The average score for the Registration process was 4.47 (up from 4.37 in 2018), with 94% of respondents rating it 4 or above.
- The average score for rating the Forum overall was 4.12 (up from 3.87 in 2018), with close to 85% of respondents rating it 4 or above. Respondents commented on the organisation and information provided in the sessions, however suggested more community and youth participation and less structured discussion sessions.
- When asked what the Forum highlight was, respondents indicated three main highlights:
 - Air Quality Presentation from Damon Roddis comparing impacts in Upper Hunter to the rest of NSW, and other speakers to hear latest news and updates on projects.
 - Networking opportunities during the information session, particularly between both suppliers and mining companies, and between community members and mining, council and business reps.
 - Openness of discussions in the afternoon workshop, being able to connect and understand different points of view.
- Almost a third of respondents indicated the 2019 Forum was better than the previous year, with a further 24.2% indicating it was on par with the previous year (Note: 2018's event had a significant increase in favourable feedback compared to the 2017 event). Nearly 40% of participants were first time attendees. Comments indicated that the Civic Centre kept everyone one together, while the Racecourse venue was too spread out and the weather on the day meant the outside displays were disturbed by the wind.
- Respondents rated the venue's food and facilities favourably. The quality of food received an average of 4.56 (up from 4.25) and the quality of conference facilities received an average of 4.57 (up from 4.3). Comments indicated that this venue was an appropriate choice for the amount of attendees present and the layout of the tables and the display stalls kept the areas separate.
- Respondents rated the opportunity to network with colleagues and other stakeholders an average of 4.42 in 2019 (up from 4.27 in 2018), with nearly 91% of respondents rating a 4 or above (up from 83% in 2018). Comments noted that there was an imbalance between citizens to mining personnel and associated services, however everyone was engaged and the opportunity to discuss matters with state government representatives was welcomed.
- Common suggestions on how we could improve networking opportunities in the future included:
 - Publishing a list of attendees in advance to help facilitate discussions.
 - Actively promoting and seeking to secure attendance of community members would help provide balance.
 - Potentially extending day into early afternoon to encourage more in-depth discussions or have in-depth discussion sessions earlier in the day to secure this feedback and end with the networking session, so if people have no other issues to discuss they are free to leave.
 - Allow businesses to share information about what they do in an information pack which delegates take with them.
 - Networking sessions may be intimidating for some people as it often appears the people at the stands are catching up with people, they already know which may be uncomfortable to break into for conversation. Some thought into how to assist members of the public who may not feel overly comfortable in this environment may help as its these voices the Dialogue really needs to hear.

- 88% of respondents felt they had enough opportunities to raise or discuss the issues of most importance to them, up from 87% in 2018. Comments included that the discussion sessions were a bit restrictive and needed more flexibility to raise everyday concerns that might not have fit into the five existing themes. It may be worth considering having a session in which the Dialogue invites suggestions or ideas for projects or initiatives that may be undertaken in the future.
- Respondents suggested other stakeholders for inclusion in the Forum could include more general community members; left, green and health representatives to provide a non-mining balance e.g. local doctors; local indigenous community members; local politicians; Lions and Rotary members; School Leaders and teacher representatives; and health, age and disability care groups.
- Respondents suggested some methods to improve engagement with community stakeholders, which included:
 - There is a perception this event is invitation only and that any feedback received is what industry wants to hear or already knows. We need to make it clear that it is open to all.
 - Having an out-of-business-hours forum given that many community members have weekday obligations during business hours, and those that are in attendance are retirees potentially limiting the broad engagement the Dialogue is seeking to facilitate.
 - Increased and targeted advertising through social media could help improve attendance.
 - Perhaps we need to ask members of the public who didn't attend why they didn't want to come.
 - Through each Forum, the community has documented for the Dialogue the key mining issues and that perhaps it is time to respond to these.
 - Resume interaction with schools, much needed feedback from future generations.
- Topics that respondents listed to be addressed at future Forums included:
 - Future resilience Employment prospects post mining Valuing intrinsic nature versus economics.
 - Post-mining matters, including mine relinquishment, future land use, employment prospects, building community resilience
 - Pollution minimisation and monitoring results, continue health and environment focus
 - Drought management, water conservation
 - Continue ATSI involvement
 - RR's mapping program showcase and performance of rehabilitation, show actual results on screen rather than figures only.
 - Presentation from the schools - what is the Upper Hunter they wish to see in 2040?
- Suggestions for improvements the Dialogue can make for 2019 included:
 - More balanced debate, appeared too one-sided for some attendees
 - Youth engagement
 - Examples of how companies collect, manage and report various environmental data - appears to be low awareness of these requirements
 - Perhaps each mine GM could agree to innovative mine pollution minimisation and dispersion measures to cut in half the PM10 and PM2.5 readings.
 - More time for table discussions and question time, consider using SLIDO apps to help facilitate these questions.
 - Open the agenda up to encourage people to contribute new ideas / knowledge / suggestions. The current format, while great for networking, does not do quite enough to encourage open discussion.
 - More input from stakeholders outside the industry.
- 94% of respondents advised they are planning to attend a future Forum event (up from 71% in 2018)), with only 6% possibly attending. No respondents advised they would not attend.
- 31% of respondents represented the mining industry (down from 43% in 2018), with a further 31% of respondents indicating they were representing themselves or a community group. 16% of respondents were from local businesses (down from 25% in 2018). The remaining 20% or so were from local/state government and research organisations.

- Nearly 73% of respondents were from Upper Hunter locations (up from 65% in 2018), with the remainder either from the Lower Hunter (incl. Newcastle) or Sydney.

1. How did you hear about the Forum?		
Answer Choice	Responses	%
NSWMC email	16	47.1%
Other	9	26.5%
Colleague	7	20.6%
Social media	2	5.9%
TOTAL	34	100.0%
Note: No responses for NSWMC website, social media, and radio		
Other Comments (9): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> email from the dialogue Hunternet Member of MD E&H Member of JASC Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce Business Friend Word of mouth member -Upper Hunter mining environment group Email 		

2. How would you rate the registration process? (on a scale of 1-5, where 1 is unsatisfactory, 5 is excellent)		
Answer Choice	Responses	%
5	19	55.9%
4	13	38.2%
3	1	2.9%
2	1	2.9%
1	0	0.0%
TOTAL	34	100.0%
Note: Mean score of 4.47 for 2019 (up 0.1), 2018 mean score: 4.37, 2017 score: 4.21		
Other Comments (3): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think the invitation needs to be sent wider than just the business community. I just rocked up! my company registered for me so unable to rate 		

3. How would you rate the Forum overall? (on a scale of 1-5, where 1 is unsatisfactory, 5 is excellent)		
Answer Choice	Responses	%
5	10	30.3%

4	18	54.6%
3	3	12.1%
2	1	3.0%
1	0	0.0%
TOTAL	33	100.0%

Note: Mean score of 4.12 for 2019 (up 0.25), 2018 mean score: 3.87, 2017 mean score: 3.60

Other Comments (10):

- Workshops were too structured. Community members had things they wanted to raise that did not fit the categories.
- I think we need to re-energise the forum and attract a broader range of community stakeholders.
- It was a good overall information session.
- It was great, I just had not attended one before so didn't know what to expect.
- First time attending Forum, well organised and very informative.
- Enjoyed the increased delivery "flexibility".
- Need to attract more general members of community.
- Good forum with relevant content, I felt there was missing representation of young people and families. Much of the community members able to attend were of an older demographic.
- Good information.
- Did not like the data chunking of air quality, fails to address this important issue appropriately from an impartial scientific perspective.

4. What was the highlight of the 2019 Forum for you?

Comments (32):

- Important collective discussions for future planning in our region and suggest more left attendees are invited such as hunter renewal.
- Air quality presentation was interesting.
- The general level of open discussion between all participants/
- Being able to speak with the various mine site representatives at the stalls.
- Meeting the CEO of the Aboriginal Business Commerce Group.
- The openness for the discussions.
- Networking and the workshop.
- Discussion tables were very successful, connecting with others and understanding different points of view.
- Exhibits exposure.
- Procurement forum was a welcome addition; both in creating supply chain connectivity, & the opportunity to network with both stand holders & attendees.
- The speakers were excellent.
- Damon Roddis on air quality presentation.
- The information provided about air quality.
- Networking session.
- The opportunity to network with a broad cross-section of stakeholders involved in the mining industry in the region.
- The opportunity to have easy access to the companies procurement people and the local Chambers of Commerce and the Councils.
- Networking with Mining companies and others. Learning about what the mines are offering and comparing to other parts of the state.
- Seeing the capabilities of the mapping program that the people from NSW Resource Regulators were demonstrating. The virtual reality experience provided at the UHMD stand.
- Involvement and engagement of the mining sector and the community.
- Could not stay long, so not applicable.
- Presentation on air quality results.
- Meeting new suppliers.
- Presentation on air quality of Hunter Valley compared to other areas.
- The discussion tables with community members were interesting.
- Networking with other businesses, community groups & community members.
- The networking session was really useful.
- Workshops.

- Presentation by Damon Roddis ERM on air quality data.
- Networking.
- The air quality presentation explaining the increasing dust trends across all of NSW, not just the Hunter Valley.
- Great opportunity for industry, government and community to come together and discuss what each of us are doing.
- Chance to hear the latest news and updates on the projects.

5. How would you rate this year's Forum compared to last year

Answer Choice	Responses	%
First time attending	13	39.4%
Not as good as previous year	1	3.0%
On par with previous year	8	24.2%
Better than the previous year	11	33.3%
TOTAL	33	100.0%

Other Comments (5):

- Venue fit for purpose
- The race club at Muswellbrook was a better venue being indoors and outdoors.
- More people, more opportunity for input
- The Civic Centre kept everyone one together. At the Racecourse it was too spread out and the displays outside were easily blown about. Being inside this year meant displays weren't disturbed by the wind.
- Did not attend last year

6. How would you rate the conference facilities and food at the Forum venue, Singleton Civic Centre? (on a scale of 1-5, where 1 is unsatisfactory, 5 is excellent)

Answer Choice	Quality of Food		Conference Facilities	
	Responses	%	Responses	%
5	19	59.4%	17	60.7%
4	12	37.5%	10	35.7%
3	1	3.1%	1	3.6%
2	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
1	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
TOTAL	32	Mean: 4.56	28	Mean 4.57

Note: 2018 mean scores were 4.25 (Quality of food) and 4.3 (Conference Facilities). 2017 mean scores were 3.50 (Quality of food) and 3.26 (Conference Facilities)

Other Comments (8):

- Could have been an opportunity to have locally sourced food as a feature to spark conversation and develop a deeper understanding of regional impacts of mining.
- The venue was good for the amount of people and having the site stalls away from the actual tables worked well.
- Excellent.
- Much better to be inside in an air-conditioned environment with more space.

- The Civic Centre has had some great improvements made.
- No further comments.
- Food was excellent!
- Good venue.

7. How would you rate the Forum as an opportunity to network with colleagues and other stakeholders? (on a scale of 1-5, where 1 is unsatisfactory, 5 is excellent)

Answer Choice	Responses	%
5	17	51.5%
4	13	39.4%
3	3	9.1%
2	0	0.0%
1	0	0.0%
TOTAL	33	100.0%

Note: Mean score of 4.42 in 2019 (up 0.15), 2018 mean score: 4.27, 2017 mean score 4.0

Other Comments (3):

- There was a huge imbalance of concerned citizens to mining companies and associated services.
- wonderful opportunities, everyone was very engaged.
- Opportunity to engage with state government is opening doors.

8. Do you have any suggestions on how we could improve networking opportunities?

Comments (20):

- Hunter futurepreneurs link.
- Possibly allocate extra time.
- Email more groups that are concerned about the future from coal and the ones that are seriously concerned for the health of the community, including mine workers and their families.
- Please provide a list of who will be there in advance and their titles.
- Hunter Air Quality cannot be dismissed by ERM Study of UHAQMN Averages.
- Continue to offer a networking-encouraging session (i.e.; the procurement session).
- It would be nice to see some more community members there.
- I believe the day could have taken the whole day or early afternoon
- Allow companies to just have one stall instead of two stalls. The stand can still be targeted to the focus areas, but I think one stall will still promote robust conversation.
- No, there was lots of time to catch up with people.
- I think the networking opportunities at the forum, particularly the Networking Session, work for people who aren't shy, but for those who are it may be a bit intimidating. A lot of the time people at the stands appeared to be catching up with people they already know, a shy person is unlikely to feel comfortable breaking into those conversations. I don't have answers unfortunately, but I think some thought needs to be put into this, particularly to assist members of the public who may not feel overly comfortable in this environment in the first place. It's their voices that the Dialogue really needs to hear. The table discussion session was better from this point of view.
- Early observation was there weren't many community participants, mainly industry and Council representatives, although this may have changed after I left.
- Spread Forum's further apart from each other. One earlier in the year, and one towards the end of the year would be more beneficial.
- Limit how many are run, we found that stakeholder engagement with procurement lower than the previous year.
- There appeared to be a slight drop in numbers for the round table sessions. perhaps have these earlier in the day.
- Allow businesses to share information about what they do in an information pack which delegates take with them.

- No. the session worked well.
- Overall satisfactory.

9. Did you have enough opportunities to raise or discuss the issues of most importance to you?

Answer Choice	Responses	%
Yes	29	87.9%
No	4	12.1%
TOTAL	33	100.0%

Other Comments:

- More flexibility in workshop to raise concerns. Wanted to talk about final land use, but facilitator kept to revegetation of disturbed areas.
- Exceptionally poor road infrastructure. Opportunity to show real time air quality video. Unsustainable 12 Hour Rosters
- Air Quality and Community Health
- The discussion points in the interactive sessions were a bit restrictive. They related to existing initiatives and ways to improve them. It would be good to have at least one section where you invite suggestions or ideas for projects or initiatives that the UHMD might tackle in future.

10. Were there any other stakeholders (individuals or organisations) you think should have been included in the 2019 Forum that were not in attendance?

Comments (24):

- Green, left, health representatives, lack of the other members non-mining input
- More community members, including GPs and school leaders.
- Just more so the general community - we need to think of a way to attract the "everyday" people - in order to speak with the majority - this potentially means an after-hours forum
- As stated, with regards to networking. There needs to be a balance, otherwise it just becomes a back-patting exercise to Billionaire Mining Companies
- SAFEgroup Automation - We provide really good solutions to collecting a lot of the data the Environmental guys need for EPA reports and all compliance reports actually, would have been good to have had our stand there.
- NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce attended for the first time this year after hearing about the Forum from another source, would appreciate being on the invite list for future forums.
- Local GP's from Singleton & Muswellbrook.
- Just community.
- More general community.
- More encouragement for community - doctors interest in air quality.
- Schools, NFP Organisations, Young People, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members. These groups were underrepresented on the day.
- The doctors that are most interested in the health aspect of mining e.g. Dr Vickers, Dr Au etc.
- I'm not sure what the proportion of community attendance was, but it seemed there were not many members of the public there. They are the voices that need to be heard.
- Can't comment because of limited attendance time.
- More advertising to encourage local supplier participation.
- Muswellbrook Shire Council were vastly underrepresented.
- More diversity in thought through attendees with opposing views. Healthcare, aged care, disability groups.
- Not that I can think of.
- Local aboriginal community. Broader community involvement - the event was invitation only, so the feedback that is received is feedback that the industry either wants to hear or already knows.
- Worthwhile to invite local polities?
- Rotary, Lions Club, Local School Leaders or teacher representatives (Environmental / Careers teachers).

11. How can we improve our engagement with community stakeholders to encourage greater participation in Dialogue activities? (Suggest any community engagement initiatives, channels or methods that might be better utilised by the Dialogue).

Comments (19):

- Schools. Ask the kids. They will be dealing with the impacts and artifacts of our adult decisions.
- Perhaps consider a night time forum and use social media to attract a broader range of community stakeholders.
- Possibly some more advertising in local newspapers & coal face.
- The Dialogue meetings need to be better advertised through Facebook, build emails lists of community groups, and Community radio, based on subjects relevant.
- Over 10 Years the Community have documented for the MD the Mining issues. it's time to respond in kind.
- Maybe connect with more community groups via email i.e. Men's Shed etc.
- Greater promotion through social media - local media
- Prepare a formal invitation to community that is shared not just with chamber emails but local NFP interagency groups. Also connect with school captains to get feedback from young people. Prepare an invitation that companies can use to share with their key stakeholders.
- Increased presence in Social Media.
- I am not sure. I believe I have not seen the information to this event until my colleague mentioned it on Monday before. I am not sure what channels would be most appropriate. I for one do have information overload and will pick the things that are relevant. For me it was relevant from the business side being able to network with the procurement side of mining and to see how what I do fits in with mining operation and staff wellbeing. I also appreciated being able to share my experiences and offer solutions from a health practitioner perspective. I do believe that advertising through the various notice boards on Facebook may be a possibility and making people realise that everyone is welcome and can have their say, or at least find out what is being done.
- Perhaps we need to ask members of the public who didn't attend why they didn't want to come. Maybe having it at a different time (evening, weekend) would make it more accessible for them. The people there in their work capacity are being paid to be there, but community members would have to take leave from their jobs to attend during a weekday. Perhaps there's other reasons they didn't come, but these need to be understood.
- Perhaps through the CCCs and local Councils.
- More engagement to attract local suppliers.
- Not sure but there needs to be many more community groups represented. Perhaps having the forum on a weekend or evening when people may be more available to attend
- Actively promote. I wasn't aware I could just register to attend. It felt like a closed group until I attended & participated.
- Already pretty comprehensive. Perhaps through mining workers to their families and friends.
- Consider timing of consultation activities - to broaden engagement outcomes, seek to engage with the community outside traditional methods (e.g. after hours, at sporting events, in the local shopping centre, not just when the industry wants something). Take on board the feedback from the forum and broaden the conversation around the harder issues - acknowledge impact and then create tangible responses.
- Possibly held at night to allow engagement with some companies / people who are at work. General comment is that the community members are mostly retirees.

12. Please list any topics you would like to see addressed at future forums

Comments (18):

- Future resilience Employment prospects post mining Valuing intrinsic nature versus economics.
- Mine relinquishment and exploration of 'best use' of land post mining, with a cumulative focus, not individual mines.
- More presentations from local and state government of post mining strategic planning - the onus should not be on the industry alone to decide the future of the region.
- Need to continually address the dust monitoring results being conducted to get the message out to the general public. What companies are doing to manage water and water restrictions.
- Extremely long travel times to work. Serious lack of road infrastructure, (Singleton Bypass) Highlight Mining companies fined for breaches and ask for their explanation. 12 hour rotating rosters that are unsustainable and unhealthy for workers with shift times that alienate families and the community at large. The reason is to reduce labour, WHY. Ask the question about the use of Fly in Fly out workers and the large use and abuse of contract labour, recently highlighted in the Newcastle Herald of very poor treatment by mines.
- Mine Pollution Minimisation & Dispersion.

- Continue on the path of health and environment and more new initiatives.
- Environmental issues - school tours linked to the curriculum - opportunity for community groups to present their viewpoints.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation
- Regional skills and labour force issues Economic diversification - in addition to procurement from mines Mine rehabilitation - planning and best practice Energy futures for the region and beyond.
- I think air quality always need to be part of it.
- A presentation from NSW Planning on factors they consider in approving new mines or extensions of mines. It seems like they are approving too many, so maybe they could explain this. A presentation from the NSW Resource Regulators on their mapping program and the level of open, disturbed land in the Hunter each year, to see if it really is increasing over time as it appears to be.
- The impact to the community of biodiversity offset land - is this the right approach. How do we get a coordinated approach to land use including final voids?
- community health.
- Update on performance of rehab land.
- Discussed in Forum. Should be in the notes.
- Presentation from council - perspective on land use planning. Presentation from schools - students or teachers or both, feedback on their experiences Presentation on future setting - what do we want the valley to look like in 2040?
- working in harmony projects- tell the story of coexistence.

13. What improvements can we make for future events? Is there anything you'd like to see more, or less of?

- Comments (14):
- Youth engagement
 - Presentations, networking and stalls were good. Workshop was good but a little restricted.
 - As this was my first event, I thought overall it was very well done and do not have any improvement suggestions at the moment.
 - Perhaps presentations about these subjects by people or groups of alternate views. Proper debate about real subjects that affect this community. Factual and Integral Mining Dialogue.
 - Examples of how the different companies, manage data, collect data and report the data to the authorities that they report to.
 - Each of 14 Mines "G Manager" to provide innovative Mine Pollution Minimisation & Dispersion measures that could half the 2019 PM10 and PM2.5 24 Hr. Avg UHAQMN readings
 - Table discussions were very robust this year so maybe enhance on that aspect, more time for table presentations and question time.
 - Maybe another 60 minutes.
 - Presentations were full of good information but could be more engaging Add Slido like question and answer tool to promote audience engagement with the presenters.
 - A more open agenda that encourages people to contribute new ideas / knowledge / suggestions. The current format, while great for networking, does not do quite enough to encourage open discussion.
 - Non that I know of.
 - None come to mind. Continue to focus on one aspect for a detailed update (e.g. air quality this year).
 - 90 minutes too long.
 - More input from stakeholders outside the industry.

14. Are you planning to attend a future Dialogue Forum event?

Answer Choice	Responses	%
Yes	31	93.9%
Possibly	2	6.1%
No	0	0.0%
TOTAL	33	100.0%

15. Who were you representing at this year's Forum?		
Answer Choice	Responses	%
Mining Industry	10	31.3%
Individual or Community Group	10	31.3%
Business community	5	15.6%
Local Government / Council	3	9.4%
Government Department	3	9.4%
Other (please specify)	2	6.3%
Research Institution	1	3.1%
Local Media	0	0.0%
TOTAL	32	100.0%
Comments (2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce • Independent Chair of CCCs 		

16. Who were you representing at this year's Forum?		
Answer Choice	Responses	%
Muswellbrook	5	15.6%
Singleton	14	43.8%
Other Upper Hunter	4	12.5%
Newcastle/Lower Hunter	8	25.0%
Sydney	1	3.1%
TOTAL	32	100.0%
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kurri Kurri area • Rutherford • Central Coast • Brisbane • Broke 		

**Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue
Joint Economic and Social Development Working Group - 11 March 2020**

Agenda Item 5

MINING PROCUREMENT INFORMATION HUB

Issue

The Dialogue supported a project in 2019 that sought to collate existing industry information on mining company procurement processes and practices to improve supplier awareness and knowledge of engagement with industry.

Background

Member companies were sent an information request in September 2019 to provide all relevant procurement details for inclusion in the Dialogue's Procurement Information Hub site. To date, information from six of the Dialogue member companies involved in the Dialogue has been received.

Prior to the 2019 Forum, the Dialogue secretariat launched the Local Procurement section of the website. The Dialogue is seeking visitor statistics to provide to Joint Working Group members. The Dialogue received positive initial feedback from stakeholders who welcomed the concept, however few had the opportunity to test the site at that time.

As a priority in early 2020, the Dialogue is seeking to finalise those companies with outstanding information and is also keen to hear feedback from members on whether this information has assisted any of their suppliers. The information on the Dialogue site can be amended at any time, so if there are any changes in procedures or contact details, please contact the Dialogue secretariat to advise.

When supporting the project earlier in 2019, members supported producing both a website for digital information, as well as producing a brochure/pamphlet-style document that can be printed and distributed at Dialogue events, and across member networks. Work on this will commence shortly, with members to be contacted to reconfirm the details provided.

Recommendation:

- **That Working Group members discuss the new website and provide any relevant feedback on its usage and any suggested improvements to the resource.**

FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue
Joint Economic and Social Development Working Group - 11 March 2020

Agenda Item 6

MINING PROCUREMENT BUSINESS EVENTS

Issue

In 2019, the Dialogue supported a project establishing a program of mining procurement business events in conjunction with local business organisations to help promote mining procurement opportunities and processes to the local business community.

Background

The intent of these events is to provide opportunities for companies to update on the progress of their operations and advise of any procurement opportunities available, as well as providing an opportunity for company personnel and suppliers to network.

The Dialogue hosted two initial events (one each in Muswellbrook and Singleton) in 2019, with the assistance of the Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and the Singleton Business Chamber.

The two events had a combined total of over 250 attendees, heard from 7 local companies, received generally positive feedback and generated local media opportunities for the Dialogue and partners.

Given the feedback received, the Dialogue is keen to continue working with the local chambers to continue this program and make any necessary refinements to the content and structure of the events to improve stakeholder satisfaction. Such feedback is included over the page in Attachment A.

Members are encouraged to discuss:

- How effective have the events been in generating procurement opportunities for local businesses and increasing awareness of company procurement processes?
- When the Dialogue should seek to host the 2020 events? The 2019 events were in August and September.
- Is it worth expanding outside of the Singleton and Muswellbrook areas given there may be suppliers outside the immediate LGA areas?
- What format should the events follow? Some attendees are seeking more of a workshop-style event to get into further detail, while others will be attending for the first time and require an introductory-level amount of information.
- Which speakers and companies for the 2020 events and what do we want them to talk about? One good suggestion was to have a local supplier discuss how they have successfully navigated a procurement opportunity to help their business grow.
- How we might plan over the next few years to create a narrative setting out what we want.

Recommendation:

- **That Working Group Members provide feedback on their experience with the business events so far, including any suggestions to improve future events.**

FOR DISCUSSION

Attachment: Summary of Feedback from Business Events

Attachment: Feedback from 2019 Dialogue and Chamber Business Events

Muswellbrook Feedback:

- There were generally high levels of satisfaction with the event, with all respondents indicating they were either very satisfied, or satisfied with the event and they would either be very likely or likely to attend future similar events.
- Respondents were favourable towards information supplied about supply opportunities; the local theme; location; breakfast timing; speakers who stayed on point; the variety of speakers and the opportunity to talk with presenters post-event.
- Respondent criticism centred around the length of the presentations (too short), speakers who strayed off topic, too many presenters and a lack of detail.
- Suggested improvements were to increase engagement with participants, including name tags, liaising with presenters to ensure they stay on point, having all local mining companies available, and more detail about what suppliers are required (e.g. catering, event hire?).
- Respondents were more favourable towards having multiple presenters on the line up, however some felt that four was too much, 2-3 speakers were indicated as the ideal amount to provide variation and greater detail.

Singleton Feedback:

- There were generally high levels of satisfaction with this event. Only one respondent was dissatisfied.
- Respondents were favourable towards the opportunity to better understand each of the companies' requirements and to meet senior decision-making contacts. Attendees found the day informative, well-represented, networking opportunities, and the venue and catering was to a high level.
- Negative feedback received pointed to a later than desired start time, a lack of networking following the formalities which saw people leave, a lack of attendance from some major local companies, and that no new information was provided - they already knew what they were being told.
- Suggested improvements for future events included more specificity from companies about supply requirements; supplying a copy of the PowerPoints as they could not be read from the back of the room, providing an opportunity for networking in the event, not just before and after, providing different levels of information (this was suitable for new contractors) so that existing suppliers may learn more about future strategies for major repair opportunities, a presentation from an actual supplier who has successfully worked with a mining company to grow their business, and keeping in touch with attendees to determine if their enquiries had been attended to.
- Respondents were more favourable towards having multiple presenters on the line up from different companies, however noted that this was dependent on the topic and/or companies involved.
- Topics that respondents would have liked to see included overall procurement strategies and information about payment terms.
- Most attendees indicated they would be either very likely or likely to attend another similar event hosted by the Dialogue and the business chamber.
- Final comments noted that the event was very professional, well organised and made them feel welcome and congratulated the Singleton Chamber for having the foresight to pick such an important topic.

**Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue
Joint Economic and Social Development Working Group - 11 March 2020**

Agenda Item 7

UPDATE ON COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES

School Mine Tours Program

- Planning for the 2020 School Mine Tours Program is well underway with all mines involved in the 2019 program committing to supporting the program by hosting tours again in 2020. The Dialogue is looking to expand the program in 2020 and has invited the four Scone-based schools to participate, potentially adding another 200 students to the program. In 2109 775 students and about 40 teachers from 18 schools based in the Singleton – Muswellbrook school catchment participated in 22 tours across 12 mine sites. Muswellbrook-area mines have agreed to host additional tours if needed to accommodate the Scone school students. The 2019 numbers compare to 650 students in 2018. It is proposed to start the tours program a month earlier – in April – to allow for a more balanced schedule across the year instead of last year’s jammed program in September/October.

Virtual Reality Experience update

- The Virtual Reality Experience has become a mainstay of the Dialogue’s community engagement displays and is attracting viewers of all ages and from all walks of life. The development and incorporation of a summary video has greatly improved the ease of operation and viewer experience. The summary video, which also incorporates the scripted voice over, automatically takes viewers through the entire mining experience without having to navigate manually from stage to state.

Community and stakeholder engagement

- The Dialogue continues to keep a busy schedule of displaying at community events. The 2020 schedule of confirmed events includes the Upper Hunter Show, Tocal Field Days, Broke Village Fair, Singleton Show and the Hunter Coal Festival. Additional events will likely be added to the schedule throughout the year.
- The Dialogue’s newsletter – now titled simply “The DIALOGUE” – will be published early May. The newsletter has been redesigned and expanded.
- The 2019 Annual Forum was captured on video. The short video has been posted on the Dialogue’s Facebook page and features positive statements from community members.

Media

- The Dialogue continues to gain positive publicity in local media. Published articles in recent months have included pre-event promotion of the Annual Forum followed by an article wrapping up the forum’s presentations and discussions and various articles and photos of the School Mine Tours Program. The Annual Forum also featured a live broadcast with Radio 2NM airing live interviews with industry, government and community forum participants. Articles and photos have also been posted on the Dialogue’s Facebook page.

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UPDATE ON OTHER DIALOGUE WORKING GROUPS/COMMITTEES

The Dialogue has several Committees and Working Groups with differing objectives. It is important to share information and knowledge amongst all Dialogue groups where relevant to help inform discussions.

Please see below for updates on various Dialogue Working Groups and Committees:

Joint Advisory Steering Committee

This was Sarah Withell's first meeting as Chair, following her appointment to the position in July 2019. This leaves the Committee with an industry vacancy, which the Dialogue secretariat will canvass with the Industry Steering Committee members for representation in early 2020.

The JASC met in September, and again prior to the Forum in October, to plan for the upcoming Forum and finalise the program. Members were keen to replicate the success of the 2018 event and make a few refinements to improve the event further. Members stressed the importance of showcasing the progress made across the range of 2019 projects, and there was a clear need to tie together the importance of the discussion session in helping to create the Dialogue's future priorities.

Mike Kelly (Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce) and Sue Gilroy (Singleton Business Chamber) have joined the JASC, representing the business and community.

The JASC is scheduled to meet next on **Wednesday 25 March 2020** from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, with a presentation from the Biodiversity Conservation Trust to better understand how this land is managed and what outcomes we are seeing in terms of increasing biodiversity and habitat from endangered species.

Communications Working Group

The Communications Working Group met and discussed the Dialogue's progress across a number of relevant projects. Of keen interest was the 2019 Forum and how best to attract community stakeholders. Members provided a range of suggestions the Dialogue adopted in a multi-pronged campaign including radio, print, targeted emails, and distribution across networks. A key focus for 2020 will be how the Dialogue may better utilise and update the website and social media.

The CWG is scheduled to meet next on **Tuesday 17 March 2020** from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Joint Environment Working Group

The most recent Joint Environment Working Group meeting was held on Wednesday 11 September 2019 and included presentations on cultural burns and indigenous mentoring programs from Jess Wegener of Firesticks Alliance and Toby Whaleboat of Hunter Local Land Services. Members were interested in these topics and noted that there is a requirement to demonstrate that land has resilience to burning, and there is a lot of potential to integrate these practices to managing mine rehabilitation land.

Other key items for discussion included:

- Air Quality Analysis Project - Members weighed up the two proposals, noting the need for independence and credibility as well as cost and value for money. Members were comfortable with both proposals, however preferred exploring any additional value the CSIRO might provide.
- Members noted the 2018 rehabilitation and disturbance results, with members noting the impact that the ongoing drought conditions are having on the quality of rehabilitation, and the impact on air quality from disturbed land.
- Dayjil Buhle from HEC joined the meeting briefly to discuss the 2018 Water Accounting Framework water use results. Ms. Buhle provided clarity on a reduced water reuse figure, noting this was a result of the water sharing between Ravensworth and Mt Owen, which will be reported as one operation in 2019 to avoid issues like this occurring in the future. Further, an increase in environmental flow was due to dam releases to potentially supplement lower natural flows.

Members were very interested in site forecasting regarding future water use given the ongoing drought conditions.

- Members discussed the draft agenda for the 2019 Forum, providing input into the final agenda.

The JEWG is scheduled to meet next prior to this Joint Working Group, with a presentation from Justine Cox, NSW DPI, on the ACARP study looking at past and rehabilitation on mining land, as well as a NSW DPIE (Energy, Environment and Science) representative to discuss recent changes to the air quality reporting from a daily average to an hourly average.

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OTHER BUSINESS

Keep It in The Regions - House Inquiry

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Innovation, Science and Resources released a report in November 2018 following the Inquiry into how the mining sector can support businesses in regional communities.

Out of the report's 21 resulting recommendations, there are several relevant to the mining industry, and the objectives of the Dialogue's Economic and Social Development Working Groups, specifically regarding Local Procurement and Terms of Payment and Contract Terms.

The government response to the report is yet to be provided.

Updates from Working Group members

To encourage greater awareness of items of interest across the Dialogue's network of stakeholders, the Dialogue Secretariat encourages Working Group members to share updates on their current or future activities and projects that may be of interest to the Joint Economic and Social Development Working Group members, or the Dialogue more generally.

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NEXT MEETING / CLOSE

Members may note the future Joint Working Group meeting dates for 2020 include:

- Wednesday 10 June 2020 - 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
- Wednesday 9 September 2020 - 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

FOR INFORMATION