

Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

2015 UHMD Annual Forum Report

9 December 2015



Workshop attendees discussing the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

Introduction

About the forum

On 9 December 2015, around 70 participants involved in the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue (Dialogue) met to review progress of the Dialogue during 2015, and considered how the Dialogue can continue to evolve to meet its goal of bringing together the Upper Hunter community to promote co-existence with mining and deliver the best overall outcomes for local communities.

This was the fourth annual gathering. The first was held in December 2012 and concluded that an annual gathering of the many individuals and groups involved in the Dialogue was a helpful way to keep track of the progress of the many Dialogue projects and to consider broad issues such as how the Dialogue is managed, whether it is making good progress and the issues it should be tackling.

About this report

This report captures the written feedback from the afternoon workshop session. The discussion points have been transcribed verbatim however some small additions/amendments have been made to the written feedback where it is necessary to assist the reader (grammar and spelling corrections, expansion of acronyms etc.). It will be the task of the working groups and/or industry to determine what and which suggestions are to progress.

Thank you to the UHMD Joint Advisory Steering Committee that reviewed the draft report.

Next steps

Valuable feedback on the Dialogue was provided during the afternoon workshoping session. The Joint Advisory Steering Committee, Industry Steering Committee, Executive Oversight Committee and working groups will consider the feedback in this report during their first meetings in 2016.

Thank you

The NSW Minerals Council and our Upper Hunter industry members would like to thank everyone who participated in the forum and throughout the year, particularly the hard working members of the Joint Working Groups and Joint Advisory Steering Committee.

Special thanks to:

- The panel members for their valuable contributions, which consisted: The Hon Michael Johnsen MP (Federal Member for Upper Hunter), John Drinan (Singleton Healthy Environment Group), Gill Eason (Singleton Business Chamber), Mike Kelly (Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry) and David O'Brien (Glencore).
- The UHMD participants that presented: John Richards (Bloomfield Collieries), Ken Bray (Hunter Valley Water Users' Association), Bill Baxter (Coal & Allied), John Drinan (Singleton Healthy Environment Group), John Watson (Glencore), David

O'Brien (Glencore), Debbie Barwick (NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce) and Bob Mackey (theresource).

- The government presenters that provided updates on key areas relating to mining and Dialogue issues: Matthew Newton (Department of Resources and Energy), Steve Barry (Department of Planning and Environment), Hamish Aiken (Department of Planning and Environment), Ashley Albury (Department of Planning and Environment) and Bruce Devonport (Singleton Council).
- Di Sneddon for facilitating the forum.
- Club Singleton and its staff for hosting the forum's guests.

Program

The program for the Annual Forum is provided in the table below.

Time	Topic
9.30am	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome – Di Sneddon Acknowledge Traditional Owners, Debbie Barwick - Chair NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce Introduction - John Richards, Bloomfield Collieries / UHMD Chair
9.45am	<p>Context Setting - panel session</p> <p>Panel discussion to explain the current economic and social environment in the Upper Hunter with respect to mining from a mixture of perspectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael Johnsen MP, Upper Hunter Shire Council Mike Kelly, Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce John Drinan, Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group David O'Brien, Glencore Gill Eason, Singleton Business Chamber
10.40am	<p>Dialogue updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations from joint working groups on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emissions and Health Land Management Water Communications Plan presentation
11.10am	<p>Morning Tea and Working Group Displays</p>
11.30am	<p>Government updates</p> <p>Presentations and discussions from government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Hunter Regional Growth Plan - Ashley Albury (DPE) Integrated Mining Policy update - Steve Barry (DPE) Regulation of rehabilitation - Matthew Newton (DRE) and Hamish Aiken (DPE) Singleton Council Sustainability Strategy - Bruce Devonport (Singleton Council)
12.45pm	<p>Lunch</p>
1.30 pm	<p>Future direction of Dialogue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are some the lessons learned / observations about the UHMD and how it has operated so far? Where do we want the Dialogue to go? What should its goals and outcomes be?
2.15 pm	<p>Recommending Specific Actions for the UHMD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the direction we want the Dialogue to go, what should the Dialogue be doing to meet those objectives? Are there any other specific tasks or activities that you think the UHMD should be undertaking?
3.00 pm	<p>Thank you and close</p>

Morning presentation session

The first part of the day involved the provision of updates relating to the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue. Following welcoming and introductory remarks, a panel discussion was held with prominent local individuals that have been involved in the Dialogue or mining issues generally. The Joint Working Group members then provided updates on their projects along with an overview of the newly updated UHMD Communication Plan. Representatives from

various Government Departments then provided updates on various initiatives that related to the Dialogue or the Hunter region and mining generally.

Afternoon workshop session

Following the scene setting discussions and updates in the morning session, a workshopping session was held in the afternoon. The purpose of the workshopping session was to seek suggestions from the participants on the future direction of the Dialogue, including recommending specific tasks that could be undertaken by the UHMD.

Specifically, the following questions were posed for the participants to discuss:

Part 1 - Future direction of Dialogue

- What are some the lessons learned / observations about the UHMD and how it has operated so far?
- Where do we want the Dialogue to go?
- What should its goals and outcomes be?

Part 2 - Recommending Specific Actions for the UHMD

- Given the direction we want the Dialogue to go, what should the Dialogue be doing to meet those objectives?
- Are there any other specific tasks or activities that you think the UHMD should be undertaking?

A summary of participant discussions is provided below.

General discussion of issues

Part 1 - Future direction of Dialogue

Table 1

- Educating broad community about UHMD, including school students.
- Resurvey community to inform communications and priorities.
 - Reuse 2010 survey as a baseline/template.
- How to get the broader community re-engaged?

Table 2

- In terms of messaging in regards to industry performance, UHMD to target mine employees and schools.
- Tell people the way it is - transparency builds trust.

Table 3

- Mine tours.
 - Brett Collier.
 - Tap into existing tourism:
 - Schools
 - Eco
 - Political
- Infographic industry explanations that simplify.
- Parallel use opportunities
 - Tourism / Entertainment
 - New agriculture
 - Arts
 - Education
 - Equine

- New working group opportunities and projects
- Collaboration with other industry groups
- Even greater ties and working together with producers
- Co-existence. UHMD has and is proven to.
- Systematic integration into curriculum primary/junior high/Senior.
- Friends of UHMD
- Ideas hub to listen to the community
- Coal festival / how can it represent UHMD
- Community input addressed through consultation along with visibility.
- Employment focus - community “health” and sustainability

Table 4

Lessons Learnt:

- Not too many projects at once
- Integration with other initiatives e.g. tap into what the government is doing.
- Community is interested - people want to know what is happening
- Data is valuable - helps build evidence, correct perceptions, helps set priorities, baseline.
- Being clear on objectives; agree on end game when developing project, leaving room for some adaptations.

Where do we want dialogue to go? :

- School groups, other community groups
- Find diverse range of dialogue champions
- Re-inject of energy
- New recruits

Goals:

- Create a tourist attraction like Australia’s ‘Industry World’ in the Illawarra - mining, viticulture, equine, power stations, dairy, industry visits.
- Industry Ambassadors scheme - train employees to be ambassadors
 - (Bluescope Steel in Port Kembla had a scheme for their employees) - aim to give employees information that can be used to talk to friends and neighbours - BBQ banter.

Table 5

- Level of Engagement with community about the Dialogue
- Renewal of dialogue membership
- Why people are no longer involved
- Communications plan perceived to be industry focused.

Table 6

- Community burnout - must be dynamic and relevant
- Resurvey - all stakeholders
- Communications

Table 7

- In the early days the info about the UHMD did not seem to be communicated to the general community.
- Who is the UHMD for - need other groups in the region to be re-involved
 - Vignerons, horses, special interest groups, Natural Conservation Council.

Goals:

- Project 1. Viewing platforms

- Project 2: Ecoresources and Energy Tourism
 - Mining heritage park
 - Angus Robertson

Table 8

- Engage with broader community
 - less necessary now than before
- Good work by regulators should be made more public
 - (To address perception that public think regulation of mines is not adequate)
- Letter box drop of mining impacted communities to sell 'Dialogue' achievements and that Dialogue exists.
 - If haven't been involved open up opportunity to be involved.
- Engagement with Universities in future Dialogue projects?

Table 9

- Mine viewing platforms "Eco/resources and energy Tourism"
- Industry to explore possibility of more agriculture / tourism / recreation
 - Trials - beef/sheep/horses/wine/poultry/bike trails etc
- Ramp up media reporting of positive outcomes to a broader audience

Part 2 - Recommending Specific Actions for the UHMD**Table 1**

- Undertake resurvey
 - See if there are community newsletters for promotion.
 - What is the community interested in re mining?
- Promote UHMD website
- Distribute UHMD stories in local newsletters.
 - Broad audience
- Focus communications on most interesting projects e.g grazing study
- Roadside spaces - tell stories e.g. engage with Aboriginal community, rehabilitation, history/future of a particular mine, native vegetation planting and information.
- More collaboration between companies e.g. rehabilitation, sharing voids.
- Economic opportunities post mine closure.

Table 2

- Communication strategy (look to add to existing mechanism)
 - Re-survey
 - Interaction on UHMD
 - Attitudes
 - Survey on UHMD achievements
 - Employee communication - feed materials into company process
 - Communications Working Group to prepare material.
- Funding program - increased for communication strategy.
- Target other existing stakeholder groups to build community participation into UHMD
 - Boost community input.
 - Joint Steering Committee to engage
 - Horse breeders to rejoin UHMD as well as power stations.
 - Beef industry, vineyards etc.

Table 3

- School's engagement - systemic curriculum integration
 - Primary
 - Junior High School

- Senior High School
- UHMD Regional awards
- Cultivating closer working arrangement with chambers
- Government departments to disseminate messages
- Maintain impartiality

Table 4

Notes:

- The same conversation is being had at each forum. Same ideas are being rehashed e.g. inviting kids.
- Members need feedback on why these ideas have not been implemented.
- Actions need to be assigned to a working group, to be actioned.
- Minerals Council do a survey of the community about what the community wants, issues etc.
- Concern that this afternoon part of the session is the most important part of today but have little time.
- Each of the working groups come up with a proposal for engaging with different segments of the community.
 - School kids - primary / high
 - Young men (employees)
 - Women
- Run a school challenge
 - Pose industry environmental problems to the students and get them to come up with solutions.

Table 5

- Working Group - Industry Collaboration
- Messaging that promotes involvements - community led initiatives.
- Shift to addressing positive opportunities

Table 6

- Re-do stakeholder survey
- Review communications plan to include how we engage with employees.
- Specific invites to annual meeting
 - e.g PAC, schools, state members, local specialist interest groups.
- Power industry re-engaged
- Outcome is to have a broader community mix.

Table 7

- Information about bonds held.
- School groups to visit mines
 - YouTube
 - Tree planting
- Mine heritage park
- Viewing platforms
- What is different?
 - Virtual reality demonstrations
- Industry succession promotes acceptance of coal mining.
- Promote partnerships to grow new activities for the post mining era.
- Crowd (funding?) Ideas for lateral ideas.
 - 2011 - can't buy / rent.
 - 2015 - can't sell.
- More community forums.

Table 8

- Make sure UHMD has sufficient funding to run a full and comprehensive communication strategy.
 - Community newsletter
 - TV Coverage
 - News / Print items
- Regulator / Government media to communicate achievements
- Involve indigenous communities to the join the Dialogue.
- Provide Dialogue 'literature' to individual mines which they can relay to their workforces.
- Strategy to communicate that UHMD is not a closed forum.
 - (Community may see UHMD is not available to them)

Table 9

- Get more school children involved
 - Invite department of education / school leaders to UHMD events and the forum / Bus tours.
- Develop a cumulative, collaborative rehabilitation report.
 - e.g innovative things being done by mining companies.
 - Include good and bad news stories - transparency.
 - e.g mines could let community know when they've had to shut down as a result of wind.
- Total field days - opportunity to talk about UHMD work (similar to community day in Muswellbrook)
- Actions coming out of grazing trial
- Explore rest stops up the valley to put up information panels about coalfields e.g. start with Singleton Visitor Information Centre.
- Provide access to tour operators on mine sites.

Conclusion

The Annual Forum provides an opportunity each year to bring together the participants in the Dialogue to review the progress of projects and the Dialogue more broadly, and to continue to evolve the process so that it continues to building a sense of community and making a valuable contribution to building coexistence with mining in the region.

The overwhelming feedback this year related to a focus on communications and community engagement. This included suggestions to resurvey the community to gauge their perception of the Dialogue, engage and educate the broader community about the work of the Dialogue, and reinvigorate UHMD membership and promote the projects. Specifically there were several suggestions around creating roadside viewing and information displays about both mining and the UHMD. There were also suggestions relating to increasing collaboration between the mining companies and educating mining employees to be able to promote the UHMD. Other common suggestions related to promoting tourism and economic opportunities post mine closure.

All of the feedback and the recommended ideas that have been identified at the Annual UHMD Forum will be considered by the Joint Working Groups and/or industry as they progress work.