

UPPER HUNTER

Air Quality Monitoring Data Analysis



Upper Hunter
Mining Dialogue

Summary of Stakeholder Consultation Process

The below flow chart maps out the key stages of the stakeholder consultation process that the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue (the Dialogue) has undertaken in developing the Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Analysis project.

1 Forum Discussion Session

November 2018 - Participants at the 2018 Annual Forum Discussion Session were asked to identify any air quality concerns and how the Dialogue could help address them.

Participants expressed concerns that there was a perception of worsening air quality in the Upper Hunter and encouraged the Dialogue to investigate what could be done to better understand the air quality in the Hunter.

2 Joint Working Group and Steering Committee discussion

February to March 2019 - Members of the Dialogue's Joint Environment Working Group and Joint Advisory Steering Committee discussed all stakeholder feedback received at the 2018 Forum. In addition to a variety of other projects, members supported progressing a project to clearly understand and communicate the air quality monitoring data in the Hunter.

3 Steering Committee Endorsement of Project

July 2019 - Following recommendations of support from the Joint Environment Working Group, the Joint Advisory Steering Committee endorsed the project.

4 Development of Scope and Key Objectives

July to September 2019 - The Working Group designed the project scope and key objectives and ERM Australia Pacific Pty Ltd (ERM) were selected to undertake the analysis of monitoring data. This also involved identifying potential independent air quality specialist candidates to undertake this analysis. ERM was briefed on the scope and key objectives and commenced work on analysing publicly available long-term air quality monitoring data.

5 Forum Presentation and Draft ERM Report

November 2019 to March 2020 - ERM attended the 2019 Annual Forum to provide an initial presentation of key observations to participants. Feedback received from participants at the 2019 Forum was generally positive. ERM continued working on the draft and delivered an initial report to the Dialogue for review.

6 CSIRO Peer Review

June 2020 - CSIRO was engaged to provide an independent review of the draft report. Melita Keyword, who previously led the Upper and Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Studies, conducted the peer review. A key recommendation of this review was for ERM to include objective statistical analysis to support the report's observations. This feedback was provided to ERM and shared with the Joint Working Groups and Steering Committees.

7 Final Stakeholder Feedback

May to September 2020 - In addition to regular updates throughout the general Joint Working Group and Steering Committee meetings, the Dialogue kept stakeholders engaged throughout the process, with multiple opportunities to provide feedback on the draft and revised versions of the report. This feedback was collated and provided to ERM for inclusion in the final report.

8 Final ERM Report released

November 2020 - ERM provided the Dialogue Secretariat with a final report incorporating all stakeholder feedback and the CSIRO comments and recommendations. Given the final report had since become quite technical in nature, the Joint Working Groups and Steering Committees recommended additional communication tools to help stakeholders better understand the key findings and the consultation process that led to these outcomes.

To find out more, visit miningdialogue.com.au

The full report and supporting communications documents can be found on the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue website.