

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE



The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

We established the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue in 2011 in response to community concerns about infrastructure and services, mine rehabilitation, water and air quality. Together, the industry engages with the industry's stakeholders and the community to understand and address concerns collaboratively by understanding these concerns and then working together to develop and implement solutions.

Participating Coal Producers

- Bengalla Mining Company
- BHP
- The Bloomfield Group
- Glencore
- Malabar Resources
- MACH Energy Australia
- Muswellbrook Coal Company
- Peabody Energy
- Thiess
- Yancoal

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue promotes:

- Listening to and working in collaboration with the community to address concerns;
- Providing a reliable source of information that builds trust between the mining industry and the community;
- Coexistence with other industries; and
- Contribution to a healthy living environment and stronger community in the Upper Hunter

Projects and organisation structure

The Dialogue's progress is largely driven by the development and implementation of projects, in agreement with the community and other stakeholders.

In 2012, five-year goals were agreed and projects to work towards those goals were established. Joint Working Groups were formed to oversee those projects under the following themes: Water; Emissions & Health; Social Impacts & Infrastructure; and Land Management.

In 2015, the Dialogue established the Joint Advisory Steering Committee that oversees the Working Groups and discusses long-term strategic mining and community matters in the Upper Hunter.

In 2018, key themes were assessed and realigned to meet changing community expectations. Key environmental themes continue to be addressed through consolidated environment-focused Working Groups.

And the Dialogue is focusing on improving communications and engagement, as well as improved economic and social development issues related to mining in the Upper Hunter.

Objectives and Projects

		Objectives	Projects
CURRENT THEMES	Land Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease the time that disturbed areas are left without final or temporary cover, recognising that different mining operations are at different points in rehabilitation. Provide transparent and reliable information through the Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments project. Achieve a consistent level of best practice, quality, integrated rehabilitation – both within the industry and with future land uses – across the Upper Hunter, and to be a responsible steward of the land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grazing studies on rehabilitated mine land Beneficial uses of mine voids study Annual Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments reporting project Rehabilitation awareness and promotion
	Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a better understanding of the region's water resources and the existing and potential impacts of development on the Hunter Valley catchment. Demonstrate and promote responsible and efficient use and management of water in the Hunter Valley. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Water Accounting Framework reporting project Hunter River Water Quality Assessment (HRSTS Study) Upper Hunter water information resources
	Emissions and Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a better understanding in the industry and the community of mining-related emissions. Manage mining operations to achieve consistent, continuous improvement of mining-related emissions levels that reflects best practice and operational excellence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network Data Analysis Community weather forecasting project Air quality fact sheets Communications strategy and information sessions
	Economic and Social Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate communications between the business and mining sectors via gathering and sharing information across member networks. Identify economic development-related issues and direct to appropriate organisations where possible. Consider projects that improve short-term economic development opportunities in the Upper Hunter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mining Procurement Information Hub Joint Chamber Procurement Networking Events for Local Suppliers and Industry
	Stakeholder Engagement and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and deliver accurate, relevant, unbiased, and non-confrontational communications on key Upper Hunter issues to stakeholder audiences both within and outside the Upper Hunter. Engage with stakeholders directly through a variety of means including meetings, forums, and community events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Mine Tours Program Virtual reality technology Targeted stakeholder meetings Community and Forum events Website, Newsletters, Social Media and Direct Emails
PAST THEME	Social Impacts and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate structured discussions between councils, business chambers and industry to better understand community infrastructure requirements, priorities and lend industry weight to lobby for infrastructure. Undertake a study to assess the impacts of the growth of the industry in the Upper Hunter with a focus on social impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing affordability and availability study Infrastructure roadshow for Resources for Regions funding

For more information about the Dialogue visit miningdialogue.com.au