



Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

2022 Community Forum Report

Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

16 November 2022

Muswellbrook RSL Club, Muswellbrook NSW



Figure 1: 2022 Community Forum attendees participate in the discussion session.

Introduction

About the Community Forum

On Wednesday 16 November 2022, around 125 participants from a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences came together at the Muswellbrook RSL Club to discuss key issues of importance to the Upper Hunter community at the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue's (the Dialogue) Community Forum.

The Forum provides an opportunity for attendees to learn more about various projects and initiatives being undertaken by the local mining industry, local councils, state government departments, and the Dialogue's community partners.

It also provides a chance for all of the many individuals and groups involved in the Dialogue 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 provide ideas and suggestions on other regional issues the Dialogue should be tackling.

This was the ninth gathering for the Dialogue's Forum since the first Forum was held in December 2012. The 2022 Forum concluded a busy few years for the Dialogue, and this event was the first since the 2019 event in Singleton following several years of Covid-impacted attempts at hosting.

It is important that the Dialogue remains relevant and continues to evolve to meet community expectations. As the Dialogue was established to address cumulative impacts of mining across the region, it is committed to working together with a diverse group of stakeholders on meaningful projects that deliver positive outcomes for local communities. The 2022 Forum pleasingly involved several first time attendees providing some valuable new faces to contribute to the discussion and feedback session.

Resulting from discussion sessions at previous Forums, the Dialogue's Working Groups and Steering Committees have endorsed a variety of projects for the Dialogue to focus on delivering throughout subsequent years. The Dialogue secretariat is currently reviewing the 2022 Community Forum feedback for further review and discussion at our early-2023 series of meetings. The Dialogue hopes these ideas and suggestions can be shaped into tangible actions and/or projects under our current Environment, and Economic and Social Development themes.

About this report

This report captures the written feedback from the afternoon discussion and feedback session. The discussion points have been transcribed verbatim however some small additions and/or amendments have been made to the written feedback where it is necessary to assist the reader (grammar and spelling corrections, expansion of acronyms etc). The Dialogue's various Working Groups and Committees will then review all feedback received and further discuss key themes to determine which suggestions should be actioned or explored.

Next steps

Valuable feedback provided attendees on the Dialogue was provided during the Forum's discussion session. The Joint Advisory Steering Committee, together with the various Joint Working Groups, will consider the feedback in this report during their first meetings in 2023. Where actions are relevant to particular working groups, these will be assigned for their review and discussion.

Thank you

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue and its industry members thank everyone who participated in the forum and the Dialogue's Joint Working Groups and the Joint Advisory Steering Committee throughout the year. The Dialogue could not exist and achieve the results it has without the contributions and buy-in from such community members. We thank you for your continued involvement and engagement.

The Dialogue extends a special thanks to:

- Our guest presenters Katie Ferro (CRNRSTONE Research), Stephen Wills (Department of Regional NSW), Julie Thomas (Muswellbrook Coal Company) and Adam Lancey (NSW Energy Coal/BHP) for their informative and interesting presentations;
- Our representatives who participated on the Community Panel session Mike Kelly (Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry), Shaelee Welchman (Muswellbrook Shire Council), Dan Repacholi MP (Federal Member for Hunter), Warrick Jordan (Hunter Jobs Alliance) and Jason Linnane (Singleton Council);
- Our business chamber and local government partners;
- Members of local community groups, CCC's and interested individual representatives;
- Our industry partners (including all site personnel involved with the Dialogue's Joint Working Groups and Steering Committees) from all Upper Hunter operations including Bengalla Mining Company, BHP, The Bloomfield Group, Glencore, Malabar Resources, Mount Pleasant Operation, Muswellbrook Coal Company, Peabody Energy, Thiess, and Yancoal;
- Our Chair Sarah Withell for her contributions to the Dialogue and oversight of this year's Forum;
- Our Forum facilitator, Dianne Sneddon for continuing to facilitating the day;
- De-Anne Douglas from the Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council for introducing the day and providing an Acknowledgement of Country;
- Wayne Toms from the Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry for assisting in managing the technical A/V components;
- Muswellbrook RSL Club, Muswellbrook Shire Council and key staff for hosting the forum's guests; and
- Our Dialogue Committee and Working Group members across local and state government, community and environmental groups, the business sector and interested individuals for their continued commitment and efforts to help the Dialogue continue.

Forum Program

The full program for the 2022 Forum has been included below:



The theme for the 2022 Community Forum is 'PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE', with a focus on economic diversification and new opportunities for the communities in the Upper Hunter region.

The Forum will be part of a live broadcast of Hunter Valley Today on 2NM hosted by Darren Cutrupi and featuring interviews with speakers and attendees.

8:30 AM	FORUM OPEN - Arrival, breakfast and networking coffee and tea available	
9:00 AM	Welcome to Country	Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council
9:05 AM	Welcome from Facilitator	Di Sneddon, Forum Facilitator
9:10 AM	Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue In Review (2020 - 2022)	Sarah Withell, UHMD Chair; and James Barben, UHMD Secretariat
9:30 AM	Community Perceptions Survey - Insights and Opportunities	Katie Ferro, CEO, CRNRSTONE Research (formerly Stable Research)
9:45AM	Industry Update and Outlook	Stephen Galilee, CEO, NSW Minerals Council
10:00AM	Government Update on future strategic planning and land use issues for the Hunter	Stephen Wills, Department of Regional NSW
10:20AM	MORNING TEA	
10:40AM	Update on Muswellbrook Coal's Closure Plan	Julie Thomas, Muswellbrook Coal Company
11:00AM	Update on Mt Arthur Coal's Pathway to 2030	Adam Lancey, BHP
11:20AM	Community Panel Discussion	Panelists will include representatives from business, local government and community interest groups.
12:00PM	LUNCH	
12:40PM	Small Table Discussion and Feedback Session	Various themes including Environmental Issues, Post-Mining Land Use, Economic Diversification, and Social Engagement
1:50PM	Final Remarks & Summary of the Day	Di Sneddon, Facilitator
2:00PM	FORUM CLOSE	

Free registrations close Friday 11 November: miningdialogue.com.au/engagement/2022-community-forum

Figure 2: 2022 Community Forum Agenda

Summary of Morning Presentations and Information Sessions

Di Sneddon returned to once again facilitate the Community Forum and welcomed attendees to the event, encouraging conversations, questions and ideas from participants.

De-Anne Douglas from the Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council provided an Acknowledgement of Country.

Dialogue Chair Sarah Withell welcomed all attendees and thanked them for their interest and participation in the Dialogue's Forum, as it is the most important event in the yearly Dialogue calendar. Sarah Withell was appointed the Chair of the Dialogue in August 2019 and has played a critical role in the oversight of the 2022 Forum and key projects that the Dialogue has undertaken over the past several years, particularly throughout the Covid-impacted period.

Ms. Withell acknowledged the challenging past few years for both community and industry alike with a changing community impacted by Covid, weather conditions, a change in political representation, and economic and infrastructure changes playing a role in the region.

Ms. Withell provided a background on the history of the Dialogue, as well as current themes and priorities, before setting the scene for the 2022 Forum agenda, with its focus on 'Planning for the Future'.



Figure 3: Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Chair, Sarah Withell

James Barben (Dialogue Secretariat) provided an overview of the Dialogue's key activities and projects since the previous Forum in late 2019, demonstrating the Dialogue's progress in recent years across the Dialogue's key environment and economic and social development themes.

The Dialogue finalised its analysis of the Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Data project. The initial report was finalised in early 2020, following Damon Roddis' (ERM) presentation at the Community Forum in Singleton in 2019. The report was peer-reviewed by Melita Keyword at the CSIRO, with supplementary analysis also provided incorporating 2020 data. This additional analysis found that the wet conditions that year led to a significant improvement in air quality across all monitored regions in the study, including the Upper Hunter, with a direct correlation between rainfall and particulate matter.

Information on the project and copies of the reports can be found here:

<https://miningdialogue.com.au/featured/air-quality-analysis>

The Dialogue finalised our Hunter River Water Quality (HRSTS) Assessment in 2020, with a second phase involving further investigation of elevated nitrate levels in mine discharge dams, an action resulting from the initial report. The analysis confirmed the relationship between nitrate concentrations and preceding rainfall. In periods of higher rainfall (where discharges are permitted), nitrate values are lower than they would be following periods of low rainfall managing discharge concentrations.



Figure 4: Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Secretariat, James Barben

Information on the project and copies of the reports can be found here:

<https://miningdialogue.com.au/featured/water-quality-assessment>

The Dialogue has supported ACARP research examining past and present mine rehabilitation. This project follows on from a previous study looking at sustainability and profitability of cattle grazing on rehabilitated mine pasture land. The Dialogue is also investigating hosting a Pasture Restoration Field Day, which will seek to bring together agronomists and industry to discuss pasture research and tour pasture rehabilitation areas in the Hunter.

The Dialogue has continued to deliver two of its key annual reporting projects focused on rehabilitation progress and mining's water use. 2021 results for both of these projects were positive, with a net positive of more rehabilitation than disturbance being undertaken by mining companies operating in the Upper Hunter over the calendar year. Water use by the mining industry was comparatively low in 2021 as well, given the significant amounts of rainfall enabled sites to conserve their water.

Information on both these projects can be found here:

<https://miningdialogue.com.au/projects>

In terms of Economic and Social Development projects over the past three years, the Dialogue has achieved:

- Procurement Information Hub -Procurement details for all Upper Hunter companies are now included.
- Procurement Networking Events -Two joint UHMD/MCCI events held in Muswellbrook in 2021/2022 to improve engagement between supply businesses and the mining sector.
- Strengthening relations between the mining sector, council and business community on local economic and social development matters.

Information on the Dialogue's business support projects and activities can be found here:

<https://miningdialogue.com.au/business-support>

In terms of Community Engagement, the Dialogue's achievements over the past three years include:

- 2020 Website Upgrade - Delivery of fresh, functional and easier to navigate Dialogue content, reports and other information.
- Continued delivery of School Mine Tours Program - Over 600 Years 5 and 9 students each year.
- Community Perceptions Survey - Third survey identified issues and opportunities for the Dialogue to work on.
- Working Group and Steering Committees -Strong meeting attendance during Covid, move to hybrid in-person and teleconference meetings
- Typically 10+ local events attended each year, with over 200 community surveys collected and over 350 community stakeholder interactions each year
- 'The Dialogue' Newsletter re-designed in 2020 and recently distributed in Hunter River Times to 12,000 readers

Information on the Dialogue's community engagement initiatives can be found here: <https://miningdialogue.com.au/community-engagement>

Katie Ferro (CEO, CRNRSTONE Research) provided a summary of the Dialogue's 2021 Community Perceptions Survey, which was the third study of its kind to be undertaken with local stakeholders. The findings of the survey will be used by the Dialogue to guide its future projects, priorities and engagement.

Representing the NSW Government, Stephen Wills (Executive Director, Regional Programs in the Department of Regional NSW) presented on the current strategic planning focused on the Hunter region. Through the Regional Programs, team Mr. Wills leads the planning, management and delivery of the \$3bn Regional Growth Fund which grows regional economies and improves the quality of life for regional communities.

Mr. Wills spoke about the importance of coal mining in the Hunter, and updated attendees on the progress of projects such as the Hunter Regional Plan, which was due to be released soon after the Forum, and focusing on enabling planning for greater diversification of land used for mining and energy generation to open new opportunities for jobs in emerging industries.



Figures 5 and 6: Katie Ferro (CRNRSTONE Research) and Stephen Wills (Department of Regional NSW)

Mr. Wills' presentation also focused on post-mining land use planning, which was of great interest to Dialogue participants, and is a strong focus of the Joint Working Groups and Joint Advisory Steering Committee. An update on the Royalties and Rejuvenation Fund was also provided, with the Hunter looking to benefit from a share of at least \$25 million each year from mining royalties to support the community and alleviate economic impacts.

Julie Thomas (Environmental Superintendent, Muswellbrook Coal Company) presented on the Muswellbrook Coal mine site's upcoming closure, providing more detail on what these mine closure activities are. Ms. Thomas expanded on the current thinking about the future plans for the Muswellbrook Coal site, which is expected to close in 2022.

Adam Lancey (Vice President New South Wales (NSW) Energy Coal) presented on Mt. Arthur Coal's Pathway to 2030, sharing his thoughts on BHP's purpose and approach to social value to guide the company's planning for closure and the site's life beyond mining.



Figures 7 and 8: Julie Thomas (Muswellbrook Coal Company) and Adam Lancey (NSW Energy Coal, BHP)

Both industry presentations provided insights into the challenges and opportunities for mining organisations in the Hunter region as their sites enter the closure phase and stimulated discussion and ideas for the afternoon discussion session.

A Community Panel followed the morning presentations, and provided an opportunity for some Upper Hunter community leaders to provide insights and feedback to both industry and government on the community's vision, and expectations for the future Upper Hunter.

The panellists included:

- Mike Kelly (President, Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry);
- Shaelee Welchman (Director Community & Economy, Muswellbrook Shire Council);
- Dan Repacholi MP (Federal Member for Hunter);
- Warrick Jordan (Coordinator, Hunter Jobs Alliance); and
- Jason Linnane (General Manager, Singleton Council)



Figure 9: Panel Discussion participants, from left Mike Kelly, Shaelee Welchman, Dan Repacholi MP, Jason Linnane and Warrick Jordan.



Figure 10: Panel Discussion participants, from left Mike Kelly, Shaelee Welchman, Dan Repacholi MP, Jason Linnane and Warrick Jordan.

Prior to lunch, facilitator Di Sneddon invited Liam Byrne onto the stage to have a brief discussion and provide a youth perspective on the future of the region. Liam Byrne is a young Singleton resident, a Year 12 student at St. Catherine's Catholic College, and was recently named the 2021 Singleton Young Person of the Year.



Figure 11: 2022 Community Forum Facilitator Di Sneddon, with Liam Byrne.

Copies of some of the presentations from the day are available to view via the following link (or can be made available via request): <https://miningdialogue.com.au/engagement/2022-community-forum>

Discussion and Feedback Session

Following the morning's presentations and panel session, participants were encouraged to join a short discussion session based around the Dialogue's key themes, including:

- Economic and Social Development; and
- Environmental issues/concerns

Participants were provided instructions and guidance to assist with their discussions.

This included a summary of the goals and objectives for the Joint Working Groups under each theme. A background information summary was also provided which highlights both:

- the various water, air quality and rehabilitation projects the Dialogue has delivered in the past, or continues to report on each year, and
- the various economic and social development projects the Dialogue has delivered in the past, or continues to provide each year.

The intent of the Forum discussion session was to capture feedback on key issues from our attendees and also provide suggestions the Dialogue can use to develop actionable projects or initiatives that address environmental impacts and economic and social development impacts of mining in the region.

Groups had about 40 minutes to discuss the issues, and each table's participants provided about 5 minutes feedback on the outcomes of their discussions.

Included below under each of the themes is the participant feedback from the session. This will be analysed by the Dialogue secretariat and grouped to help form some potential project ideas for discussion at the early 2023 Joint Working Group and Joint Advisory Steering Committee meetings.



Figure 12: 2022 Community Forum discussion session with participants.

Participant Feedback

Environmental Impacts Questions:

- 1. What are the environmental impacts that you are most concerned about in the Upper Hunter?*
- 2. In light of the presentations and discussions on the evolving Upper Hunter economy, what do you see as the main future environmental challenges?*
- 3. What could the Dialogue do to address the concerns and opportunities in Questions 1 and 2?*

Environment Issues - Table Feedback

Table 2

Question 1:

- Air quality - Continues to be a concern, although has improved significantly with recent rain. Concerns about cumulative impact on people's health, particularly water tank quality - mines clean water tanks for nearby residents, should this be a bit further afield? Concerns not just about dust, but also impact of chemicals.
- Voids - The Upper Hunter will end up with approximately 31 final voids. How do we use them after rehabilitation is finished? Options for use may be pumped hydro, though saline water will be a challenge, including storage for flood mitigation. Cannot just fill them with material. Freshwater lens on top of voids for industry.
- Will there be sufficient organic matter to rehab mine sites in the future. Use of tailings for topsoil?
- Sites for solar farms may not need to be rehabbed to pasture quality.
- Use of mine voids - Some may be used for pumped hydro, but saline water is a challenge. Filling voids has impacts on the environment too.
- Need to find people/companies that would view the voids as a resource.
- Voids close to the river may be potential flood mitigation resources.

Question 2:

- Would a freshwater lens on top of voids be available for industry?
- Climate change - How are we keeping world temps below 1.5C increase with so much coal still to be burnt?
- Climate change adaptation
- Selecting the right combination of post-mining uses.
- Use tailings as a resource. Uses in the building industry as well. Power stations generate ash and could this be seriously considered for use.
- Fire hazard of grass and tree rehabilitation approach
- Chemicals being managed and contamination.
- Tank water quality due to dust on roofs - rural areas. Mines only clean for nearby properties (issue is also chemical not just sediment)

Question 3:

- NSW EPA and other regulators could be more nimble in approving new approaches to use of tailings and organics (tailings to topsoil), as well as use of ash from power stations.
- Transition of machinery using diesel to hydrogen and green electricity - expensive, hard to source.
- Leadership by mining companies to commit to hydrogen and electric vehicles to build the market to encourage vehicle manufacturers to develop more of these vehicles
- Weed management, feral animals.
- Background noise from mining operations

Table 4

Question 1:

- Final void water quality on closure - how can voids be used? And is there enough work that has been done to understand the water quality impacts for ongoing use? Key to beneficial use of these voids is ensuring we have appropriate data and assessments done so we can make the most use of these assets for hydro/aquaculture uses.
- Flexibility in land zoning to provide beneficial land use. Tying flexibility into the planning systems will help enable outcomes to be delivered for the region. There is significant time to get land rezoned, can that fit into the planning cycle when a site is planning for closure, and can these changes be made quickly enough to enable better outcomes for community, proponents etc. and encourage industry. Industry is locked into particular land uses for the bodies of land they hold.
- Tailings dams and rehabilitation and closure - Discussion of Tailings to Topsoil project. Approach to tailings is a closure matter. Need to ensure we are using this material if possible and ensure these are stable long term.
- Air Quality - Industry to drive reduction in diesel emissions and remove/upgrade old equipment to electric/hydrogen vehicle technologies.
- Spontaneous combustion / odour concern - A lot of work has gone on to manage this. Another opportunity for the Dialogue to consider these matters and ensure these are controlled.
- Communication of current initiatives - The Dialogue does speak widely. Ensure we have an adequate approach to communicate this effectively.

Question 2:

- Tailings dam legacy matters
- Voids legacy matters - Dealing with projects that ensure these are understood.
- Providing pathways for optimum alternative land uses

Question 3:

- No feedback

Table 7

Instead of responding directly to the questions asked, this table categorised its feedback under key sub-themes for consideration:

Rehabilitation

- How do we establish flexibility and robustness in terms of final land use? We refer to it as final land use, however the land will exist for a long time after mining. For industry to sit and say this is the final land use/purpose in perpetuity somewhat restricts our thinking and creates a bit of arrogance.
- Address restrictions on final land use.

Regime/statutory

- Eleven councils in Newcastle/Lake Macquarie region, Upper Hunter grouping, Singleton/Cessnock grouping.
- How do you actually establish a body that draws these issues together and enables you to achieve the outcome.
- Establishment of a regional transitional authority - should be explored to examine region wide issues.

Regional approach

- Establishment of biodiversity corridors - Mining companies have offset land, mines located on valley floor, may be an opportunity to link these corridors.
- Revive the Great Eastern Ranges project.
- Vision - Great to have a clear direction or desire for the region, however we need to build in flexibility as well as alternate visions if any of the intended goals are unable to be realised.

Transparency of mining company information

- Publicly available information to be more legible - Sites are Required to publish information, but there is a high volume of information and technical nature, important aspects can be lost to the community reader. Could there be some development from mining companies to present this information in a simpler way?

Environmental impact

- Good water stewards - positive feedback about the industry's low use of water taken from the Hunter River and reuse of water onsite.
- Dust and diesel emissions - there is still room for improvement for sites to manage/reduce emissions.
- Climate change.

Economic and Social Development Questions:

1. *How can the mining industry facilitate economic diversification and enable new industries and employment opportunities in the Upper Hunter?*
2. *What are the barriers to achieving the opportunities identified in Question 1, and how might these be overcome?*
3. *In light of the presentations and discussions on the evolving Upper Hunter economy what social issues might arise, and how might these be addressed or planned for?*

Economic and Social Development - Table Feedback

Table 1

Question 1:

- Skills audit - demonstrate the types of skills present (sites and suppliers)
- Tourism sector - support to improve facilities/amenity.
- Inclusive of Upper Hunter Shire Council - involve UHSC in more discussion.
- Communication infrastructure - Use of comms towers for telcos

Question 2:

- Better collaboration with business and mining industry to improve understanding (e.g. face to face group/drop in sessions) - what can we do better to share information, rather than just speaking to rooms, can be a 'talk-fest', bring everyone together.
- Financial support for access to business chambers/events - idea for mining companies to sponsor/support business members to join chambers to increase understanding.

Question 3:

- Housing affordability/availability - invest in housing - mining companies can perhaps build houses in mining communities. Issue with the mining sector being able to offer more money and impacting housing availability. Can we look at building our own houses to alleviate pressure?

Table 3

In light of the Dialogue's discussion session guidance to provide ideas and suggestions for the Dialogue to develop tangible actions or projects, this table delivered four key actions for the Dialogue to consider:

1. Create times/areas available for investors to help with planning - In order to assist with investors/other companies/industries into this area, we as a mining industry need to develop a matrix/list/table for times/areas for when land will be available. Not everything is shutting down or transitioning at the same time, so it would be useful to understand what land will be available and at what stage. Is this something we can put together and make available? (For example, if you can see 2000ha will be available in 2035, this may assist planning for land uses).
2. Advocate for housing options to accommodate transition - If we are going to have other industries or business moving into the area, we cannot just move everyone out, we're going to need to advocate for versioning on housing options.
3. Advertising/marketing piece for combatting the view that Upper Hunter towns are becoming ghost towns - not now, perhaps a view from outside the region that there is

a shutting down/winding down of industry. Need to think outside of direct employees, ancillary families, schools etc. Need to make it clear that the region is here to stay. Attract tree-changers.

4. Advocate for the idea of developing some type of independent agency for transition - More for the state government reps, while there may be alignment from local council, industry and federal government, but this may not fit in with the state strategy/policy. An independent agency could help bring about the transition.

Table 5

Question 1:

- Be selective to encourage multi-purpose use on land assets - e.g., solar projects and agriculture; e.g. cattle grazing on solar projects, mushrooms growing under solar panels.
- Cooperate with all levels of government to unlock mining lease land for alternative industries - alternate manufacturing e.g. Small Modular Reactor (RWC), critical minerals processing, training centres, affordable housing on land.
- Investigate opportunities for ammonia production for export (possible policy directive) - should be a government policy in this space.

Question 2:

- Planning policy - need flexibility and capacity within planning law to address particular site issues, problems and opportunities
- Looming minerals shortages - a lot of minerals required for alternative industries are in short supply
- Industrial action could be a barrier for any industry at any port - ports issues currently experienced are good examples. Rail issues, trains parked for up to 6 months before they can be put to work due to industrial action.
- Lack of vision and collaboration between stakeholders - Still seems to be a lot of diversity between different groups as to what they want to achieve.
- Skills shortages - across many industries, don't appear to be able to be fixed in near future.

Question 3:

- Focus on commercially viable transition - industries that are innovative, sustainable industries, be selective about that.
- Continue the Dialogue - Unique forum created and continuing Dialogue will provide further opportunities for collaboration
- Dialogue should seek to access international experience regarding transition - e.g. case studies.

Table 6

Question 1:

- A lot of the mining companies in the Hunter are global companies with access to global resources, will be required to transition and change in their own businesses,

ample opportunities to use the Hunter as a showcase for how transition can happen and what new technologies can be produced from a mining perspective.

- Productive reuse of land for:
 - Plantations/forestry
 - Passive recreation
 - Export distribution centres - ideal location being able to access agricultural land, short distance to ports.
 - Activities to bring people into the region 7 days a week tourism - support existing and emerging tourism locations.
 - Access to the Hunter river - perhaps not currently utilising this as an opportunity for tourism and recreation opportunities
 - Natural beauty - outdoor activities, what can we encourage in the region, other extreme activities.
 - Industry has great linkages with other companies - how can we use relationships and existing networks to support and grow new technologies and new supply chain opportunities
 - New industries for kids to come back to the region after schooling - how do we establish new attractive opportunities or types of industries our kids want to be involved in and which may not currently be here to attract the youth to return for career progression. Children should be able to aspire to be whoever they want to be here within the region.
- Idea to create an annual Youth Forum. We need to involve our children in this conversation.
- Continue to facilitate apprenticeships and opportunities for young people in the region so they can stay here.

Question 2:

- Financial capacity to deliver objectives - fair share of mining industry dollars, ensure infrastructure and things we offer align with how much the industry is producing.
 - Access to health care facilities - ageing population
 - Change of mindset - negativity, how do we change this to be optimistic. We have a great opportunity here. Be more positive around narratives about what the future holds for our region.
 - Access to the global capability of companies - what are we all trying to collectively achieve? What are our objectives? Need a clear vision/objective for the future that we are collectively working towards.
 - Think bigger/smarter.
 - Access to land to accommodate future industry

Question 3:

- Representative and more inclusive of community to solve the problems
- Affordable housing - Housing
- Education locally - better representation from universities from within our locations.
- Potential for people to move away as they perceive lack of opportunity in the region, Big impact on the viability of towns/housing.
- Things for people to do and be involved - international standard training facilities, world grade sporting facilities, rowing in Lake Liddell, Health care / mental health, need to ensure we have these in place for the community

- Replacing the mining income expectation - challenge for existing workforce. How do we put new industries in that match what they're currently earning
- Mining donations to support existing infrastructure and what we run, over time this philanthropic funding will decline, so how do we replace that.