

**Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and  
Large Coal Mining Development (IESC)  
Meeting 36, 23 June 2016**

**MINUTES  
Canberra**

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**Attendance and Apologies**

IN ATTENDANCE

Dr Andrew Johnson (Chair)  
Emeritus Professor Peter Flood  
Dr Ian Prosser  
Dr Glen Walker  
Professor Craig Simmons  
Ms Jane Coram

APOLOGIES

Dr Jenny Stauber  
Dr Andrew Boulton

OFFICE OF WATER SCIENCE - SECRETARIAT AND SUPPORT

Matthew Whitfort  
Sean Lane  
Ann Hartley  
Lily Knife

OTHER STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Dr Diana Wright (Item 3) First Assistant Secretary	Dr John Higgins (Item 3 and 4) Office of Water Science
Anthony Swirepik (Item 3 and 5) Office of Water Science	Emily Turner (Item 3) Office of Water Science
Peter Baker (All Items)	

INVITED GUESTS

Julie Burke (Item 3) Bureau of Meteorology	Geoff Hosack (Item 3) CSIRO
Simon Barry (Item 3) CSIRO	Keith Hayes (Item 3) CSIRO
Steven Lewis (Item 3) Geoscience Australia	Brent Henderson (Item 3) CSIRO
David Post (Item 3) CSIRO	Trevor Christie-Taylor (Item 3) Bureau of Meteorology
Keith Phillips (Item 5) Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment	Steven Flook (Item 5) Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment

The meeting commenced at 9.05 am on 23 June 2016.

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair, Andrew Johnson, welcomed members of the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development (IESC) to the meeting. Apologies were received from Dr Jenny Stauber and Dr Andrew Boulton.

### 1.1 Acknowledgement of country

The Chair acknowledged the traditional owners, past and present, on whose land this meeting was held.

### 1.2 Declaration of interest

Before the meeting commenced, IESC members completed the Meeting Specific Declaration of Interest. The determinations recorded at this meeting are available at *Attachment A*.

### 1.3 Confirmation of agenda

The IESC endorsed the agenda for Meeting 36.

### 1.4 Action items

Completed items were noted. A number of follow-up items were listed on the agenda for later meetings.

### 1.5 Confirmation of out-of-session decisions

The Chair noted the following items have been agreed out of session:

- minutes of the IESC's thirty fifth meeting on the 18 and 19 May 2016 were confirmed and agreed for publication; and
- advice on the Hillalong Coal Extension Project was finalised and provided to the decision maker.

### 1.6 Correspondence

The IESC noted the action taken and status of correspondence to 31 May 2016.

### 1.7 Environmental scan

The Office of Water Science provided an update on developments since the May IESC meeting, including:

- development proposals on which the IESC has provided advice;
- various announcements and actions taken by state governments of interest to the IESC, including the Victorian Government's announcement to defer its response to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into unconventional gas in Victoria;
- a summary of election commitments that relate to the IESC's work; and
- the Chair updated the IESC on his visit to meet with the Environment subcommittee on the NSW Minerals Council.

Conferences:

- Peter Baker, Principal Science Adviser, Office of Water Science updated the IESC on his recent attendance at the APPEA Conference and Exhibition, Brisbane June 2016. The theme of the conference was 'Competing for Growth'.

## 1.8 Forward Planning Agenda

The IESC noted the forward planning agenda and items due for consideration through to December 2016. It was agreed the next meeting would be scheduled for 1 - 2 August 2016.

## 2. **Advice on projects referred by governments**

There was no advice to consider at this meeting.

## 3. **Bioregional Assessments**

### 3.1 to 3.3 Bioregional Assessments Workshop

The IESC engaged in a workshop to investigate the remaining components of bioregional assessments that were discussed at the IESC Meeting in March 2016. The workshop focused on the receptor impact modelling and impact and risk analysis. The IESC discussed the receptor impact modelling process for ecological variables and its systemisation through the analysis database.

A prototype of the Bioregional Assessments Explorer component of the Information Platform was demonstrated to the IESC. The IESC acknowledged the existing business processes and recommended these be strengthened with increased focus on end user need through user acceptance testing.

The IESC appreciates the scale of the Bioregional Assessment task and the amount of preparation required for the workshop. The IESC thanked the team for their efforts to ensure a better understanding of the Bioregional Assessment methodology end to end.

The IESC requested a discussion on the communication of results, including qualitative models, at a future meeting.

## 4. **Research**

### 4.1 Research Programme Update

An update was provided on key activities in the Research Programme including the National Assessment of Chemicals Associated with Coal Seam Gas Extraction.

The IESC noted the update.

## 5. **Other Business**

### 5.2 US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine “Unconventional Hydrocarbon Roundtable”

Professor Craig Simmons briefed the IESC on his attendance at the Unconventional Hydrocarbon Roundtable’s Workshop on Use of Flowback and Produced Waters, in Washington DC on 25-26 May 2016. Professor Simmons was a member of the Workshop Planning Committee representing Flinders University.

The Workshop, attended by industry, government, non-government, research and academic participants, addressed a key issue around the beneficial use of produced water, with keynote addresses and discussion panels. Material and videos of each session are available online at <http://nas-sites.org/uhrroundtable/meetings/>.

### 5.3 Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment

Mr Keith Phillipson, Director Technical Projects and Mr Steven Flook, Hydrogeologist from the Queensland Government's Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment (OGIA) presented to the IESC an overview of the Surat Underground Impact Report.

The IESC recognised the work of OGIA and welcomed the opportunity for future engagement.

The Chair thanked Mr Phillipson and Mr Flook for the presentation.

#### **Close of Meeting**

The Chair thanked everyone for their contribution to the meeting.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for 1 – 2 August 2016 in Canberra.

The meeting closed at 4.30pm on Thursday 23 June 2016.

Minutes confirmed as true and correct:

Dr Andrew Johnson

IESC Chair

30 June 2016

<b>Item(s)</b>	<b>IESC member</b>	<b>Disclosure</b>	<b>Determination</b>
4	<b>Professor Craig Simmons</b>	I consider that there may be a possible conflict of interest in relation to Agenda Item 4 (Research) arising from NCGRT as a potential/current provider of research.	No actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest exists and Professor Simmons participated fully in the meeting.