

**Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and  
Large Coal Mining Development (IESC)  
Meeting 53, 20 June 2018**

**MINUTES  
Brisbane**

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**Attendance and Apologies**

IN ATTENDANCE

Dr Chris Pigram (Chair)  
Dr Andrew Boulton  
Dr Wendy Timms  
Dr Ian Prosser  
Dr Glen Walker  
Professor Craig Simmons  
Dr Jenny Stauber  
Professor Joan Esterle

SECRETARIAT AND SUPPORT

Matthew Dadswell  
Emily Grant  
Peter Baker  
Benjamin Klug  
Ann Hartley

STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Natasha Amerasinghe Office of Water Science	Jo Brennan (Items 4.7) Office of Water Science
Mio Kuhnen Office of Water Science	Regan Hart (Items 4.7) Office of Water Science
Sarah Taylor Office of Water Science	Mitchell Bouma Office of Water Science
Taysha Le Compte Office of Water Science	Carl Zimmerman Office of Water Science

INVITED GUESTS

Trang Huynh (Item 4.4) Hydrobiology	Dustin Hobbs (Item 4.4) Hydrobiology
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The meeting commenced at 9.10am on Wednesday 20 June 2018.

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair, Dr Chris Pigram, welcomed members of the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development (IESC) to the meeting.

### **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, Committee members completed the Meeting Specific Declaration of Interest.

No actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest were recorded for this meeting.

### **1.3 Confirmation of agenda**

The Committee endorsed the agenda for Meeting 53.

### **1.4 Action items**

Ongoing items were noted and an update was provided on the timing of completion.

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

- advice on the Wallarah 2 Coal Project was finalised consistent with the IESC's deliberations and provided to the decision makers; and
- Minutes of the IESC's fifty-second meeting on 23-24 May were confirmed and agreed for publication out of session.

### **1.6 Correspondence**

The Committee noted the status of correspondence to 5 June 2018.

### **1.7 Forward planning agenda**

The Committee noted the forward planning agenda. It was agreed the next meeting would be scheduled for 25 – 26 July 2018.

### **1.8 Environmental scan**

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

- the Hunter subregion Bioregional Assessment Release.
- update on the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracture Stimulation in Western Australia 2017.
- the establishment of the Onshore Shale Gas Community and Business Reference Group in the Northern Territory.

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

There were no projects considered at this meeting.

## **3. Bioregional Assessments**

There were no Bioregional Assessments items on the agenda.

## **4. Other Business**

### **4.1 Annual Review 2017 – 18**

The draft 2017 – 18 IESC Annual Review was discussed by the Committee.

The Committee agreed the Chair to approve the final Annual Review out of session.

#### 4.2 Referrals under Part 2 of the EPBC Act

The Committee discussed the proposed process for referrals under Section 505D (2) (b) of the EPBC Act.

The Committee noted the advice and agreed the Chair, in consultation with the Office of Water Science, would decide if the IESC had sufficient scientific expertise to provide advice under this section on a case-by-case basis.

#### 4.3 Explanatory Note: Uncertainty Analysis in Groundwater Modelling

The Explanatory Note: Uncertainty Analysis in Groundwater Modelling was presented to the Committee for comment and endorsement.

The Committee endorsed the Explanatory Note.

#### 4.4 Explanatory Note: Site Specific Guideline Values and Monitoring of Physical and Chemical Parameters

The draft Explanatory Note: Site-Specific Guideline Values and Monitoring of Physical and Chemical Parameters was presented by consultants, Hydrobiology.

The Committee noted the update.

#### 4.5 Explanatory Note: Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems

The Explanatory Note: Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems was presented to the Committee for comment and endorsement.

The Committee endorsed the Explanatory Note.

#### 4.6 Explanatory Notes - Lessons Learned and Forward Plan

The Committee discussed lessons learned after the release of the first three Explanatory Notes for public consultation as a forward planning exercise for future Explanatory Notes.

#### 4.7 IESC Research Symposium Debrief

The Committee discussed the previous day's IESC Research Symposium including lessons learned. A summary of feedback forms received from the Research Symposium was presented to the Committee.

### **Close of Meeting**

Being the last meeting for Dr Ian Prosser and Dr Glen Walker as members of the IESC, the Chair acknowledged Drs Prosser and Walker for their service and contribution to the Committee.

The meeting closed at 1.45pm on Wednesday 20 June 2018.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contribution to the meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for 25 – 26 July 2018.

Minutes confirmed as true and correct:

Dr Chris Pigram

IESC Chair

2 July 2018