

**Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and
Large Coal Mining Development (IESC)
Meeting 91, 9 November 2022**

**MINUTES
Videoconference**

ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

IN ATTENDANCE

Dr Chris Pigram (Chair)
Dr Andrew Boulton
Professor Craig Simmons
Professor Jenny Davis
Associate Professor Phil Hayes
Professor Rory Nathan
Professor Wendy Timms

APOLOGIES

Dr Jenny Stauber

INVITED GUESTS

Item 3.2

Emeritus Professor Bruce Hebblewhite, Consultant Mining Engineer and Principal, B K Hebblewhite Consulting

OFFICE OF WATER SCIENCE (OWS)

Peter Baker, Director
Aimee McAllister
Andriana Stoddart
Aranza Bulnes-Beniscelli
Ben Klug
Christina Fawns
Fiona McKenzie-Smith
Frances Knight

Isabelle Francis
James Rae
Jason Smith
Katrina Bourke
Laura Richardson
Mio Kuhnen
Sarah Taylor

Note: OWS attendees include those with full or partial, and in-person or virtual, attendance.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair 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 lands this meeting was held.

1.2 Disclosure of Interests

Committee members were invited to make disclosures. Committee members also completed a Meeting Declaration of Interests before the meeting commenced. 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 91.

1.4 Confirmation of Out-of-Session Decisions

The Committee noted that:

- minutes of the Committee's ninetieth meeting on 5 – 6 October 2022 were agreed out-of-session and published on 24 October 2022.
- advice on the Gregory Crinum Coal Mine M Block Extension was provided to the regulator on 10 October 2022 and published on 24 October 2022.

1.5 Correspondence

The Committee noted the status of correspondence to 31 October 2022.

1.6 Action Items

Ongoing items were noted and updates were provided on the timing of completion.

1.7 Forward Planning Agenda

The Committee noted the forward planning agenda.

It was agreed that the next meeting be scheduled for 12 – 14 December 2022 by videoconference.

1.8 Environmental Scan

The OWS reported on recent events.

2. Advice on Projects referred by governments

No projects were referred for advice.

3. Other business

3.1 Review of the IESC Information Guidelines

The Committee discussed revisions to the checklist in the IESC's *Information guidelines for proponents preparing coal seam gas and large coal mining development proposals*.

3.2 Subsidence Explanatory Note – Coal Mining

Emeritus Professor Bruce Hebblewhite presented to the Committee on the final draft Explanatory Note - *Subsidence Associated with Underground Coal Mining* and discussed public consultation feedback.

3.3 The conservation challenge of protecting recently discovered subterranean wetlands and stygofauna in northern Australia

IESC member Professor Jenny Davis presented on recent research involving stygofauna and groundwater dependent ecosystems supported by the Tindall Limestone Aquifer in the Northern Territory.

3.4 Ecohydrological Conceptual Models Explanatory Note

The Committee discussed the 'worked example' drafted for the Explanatory Note including applicability and improvements.

4. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 4.40 pm on Wednesday 9 November 2022.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 12 – 14 December 2022.

Minutes confirmed as true and correct:

Dr Chris Pigram AM, FTSE

IESC Chair

17 November 2022