

**Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Unconventional Gas Development and  
Large Coal Mining Development (IESC)  
Meeting 107, 24 July 2024**

**MINUTES  
Videoconference**

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**ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**APOLOGIES**

Dr Juliette Woods

**INVITED GUESTS**

*Item 3.3*

Sameer Ganpule, Petroleum Engineer, Origin Energy Ltd  
Ramon Ruiz Sierra, Senior HSE Specialist, Origin Energy Ltd  
Tim O'Grady, General Manager Government Engagement, Origin Energy Ltd  
Andrew Hage, Senior Well Engineer, Origin Energy Ltd

**OFFICE OF WATER SCIENCE (OWS)**

Dr Des Owen, Director  
Ben Klug  
Amelia Lewis  
Aranza Bulnes-Beniscelli  
Frances Knight

Dylan Stinton  
Isabelle Francis  
Dr Laura Richardson  
Dr Sarah Taylor

*Note: OWS attendees include those with full or partial attendance.*

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair acknowledged the traditional owners, past and present, on whose lands this meeting was held, and welcomed members of the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Unconventional Gas Development and Large Coal Mining Development (IESC) to the meeting.

**1.1 Attendance and Apologies**

IESC members in attendance and apologies are recorded above.

## 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 107.

## 1.4 Confirmation of Out-of-Session Decisions

The Committee noted that:

- minutes of the Committee's 106<sup>th</sup> meeting on 19 – 20 June 2024 were agreed out-of-session and published on 5 July 2024; and
- advice on the Vulcan South Coal Mine Project was provided to the regulator on 21 June 2024 and published on 5 July 2024.

## 1.5 Correspondence

The Committee noted the status of correspondence to 9 July 2024.

## 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 to be a videoconference on 27 – 28 August 2024.

## 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 Beetaloo Basin exploration and appraisal request for advice

OWS presented a Beetaloo Basin background information session to the Committee. The Committee then discussed the logistics of servicing a request for IESC advice on exploration and appraisal activities in the Beetaloo Basin, Northern Territory.

### 3.2 Potential future site visit discussion

This agenda item was deferred to a later meeting.

### 3.3 Presentation: Science of hydraulic fracture stimulation

Sameer Ganpule, Origin Energy Ltd, presented a broad technical overview of hydraulic fracture stimulation techniques to the Committee.

## **4. Close of Meeting**

The meeting closed at 4.55pm on Wednesday 24 July 2024.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled as a videoconference on 27 – 28 August 2024.

Minutes confirmed as true and correct:

Dr Chris Pigram AM, FTSE

IESC Chair

7 August 2024