

**Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and
Large Coal Mining Development (IESC)
Meeting 84, 9 March 2022**

**MINUTES
Videoconference**

ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

IN ATTENDANCE

Dr Chris Pigram (Chair)
Dr Andrew Boulton
Professor Jenny Davis
Dr Jenny Stauber (Items 1.5-1.8, 3 & 4)
Associate Professor Phil Hayes
Professor Rory Nathan
Professor Wendy Timms

APOLOGIES

Professor Craig Simmons

INVITED GUESTS

Item 3.1

Dr Bruce Hebblewhite, Consultant, Mining Engineer & Principal, B K Hebblewhite Consulting, and
Professor Emeritus, UNSW Sydney

Item 3.2

Professor Grant Hose, Associate Dean Innovation, Macquarie University
Dr Kathryn Korb, Researcher, Macquarie University

Item 3.3

Declan O'Connor-Cox, Assistant Secretary Environment Protection Reform
Dwayne McMaugh, Director Priority Reform Delivery Team

OFFICE OF WATER SCIENCE (OWS)

Alison McMorrow, Assistant Secretary Biodiversity Policy & Water Science (Items 1.1-1.5 & 3.3)
Peter Baker
Aimee McAllister

Andriana Stoddart
Aranza Bulnes-Beniscelli
Benjamin Klug
Christina Fawns
Dominica O’Dea
Fiona McKenzie-Smith
Frances Knight
Isabelle Francis
Jacqueline Beerworth
James Rae
Jason Smith
Kelly-Anne Lawler
Kelly Strike
Mehdi Shabaninejad
Mio Kuhnen

Note: OWS attendees listed above include those with full or partial attendance at Meeting 84.

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 84.

1.4 Confirmation of Out-of-Session Decisions

The Committee noted that:

- advice on the Gas Supply Security Project and the Towrie Gas Development was provided to the regulator; and
- minutes of the Committee’s eighty-third meeting on 1 – 4 February 2022 were agreed out-of-session and published.

1.5 Correspondence

The Committee noted the status of correspondence to 20 February 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 as a videoconference for 13 April 2022.

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 Subsidence Explanatory Notes – Coal Mining

Dr Bruce Hebblewhite, who has been engaged to develop an Explanatory Note on subsidence from underground coal mining, presented a draft to the IESC. The IESC noted the presentation, discussed the draft and provided verbal feedback, with written feedback to be provided out of session.

3.2 Metagenomics Research Project (Phase 1)

Professor Grant Hose and Dr Kathryn Korb from Macquarie University presented the draft report on Phase 1 of the project: Approaches to biomonitoring for groundwater ecosystems, including the results of fieldwork and any implications for inferring potential impacts of development proposals. A discussion followed and the IESC provided alterations, expansions and additions, and agreed the report can be finalised out-of-session.

3.3 Regional Plan Framework

Declan O'Connor-Cox, Assistant Secretary Environment Protection Reform and Dwaine McMaugh, Director Priority Reform Delivery Team, gave a presentation on the draft Regional Plan Framework, including how the framework addresses recommendations in the Independent Review of the EPBC Act, how the framework was developed and how regional plans will work. The IESC noted the presentation, discussed the framework and agreed to provide written feedback out of session.

4. Close of Meeting

The Chair thanked everyone for their contribution to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 4.00 pm on Wednesday 9 March 2022.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 13 April 2022.

Minutes confirmed as true and correct:

Dr Chris Pigram AM, FTSE

IESC Chair

30 March 2022