



The IESC and the assessment process under the EPBC Act

The Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development (IESC) provides scientific advice to the Australian Government Environment Minister on the impact that coal seam gas and large coal mining development may have on Australia's water resources. The committee's functions are prescribed in Section 505D of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Independent Expert Scientific Committee (IESC)

IESC advice helps identify the potential impacts of coal seam gas and large coal mining development proposals on water resources

IESC advice helps assess the adequacy of environmental (particularly water) management plans required under approval conditions

IESC advice provide scientific expertise in matters of national environmental significance



ADVICE



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The Minister must request advice from the IESC on impacts of proposed coal seam gas or large coal mining developments that have or are likely to have a significant impact on a water resource, including any impacts of associated salt production and/or salinity (Section 131AB of the EPBC Act)

The Minister may request advice from the IESC on management plans required under approval conditions The Minister may request advice from the IESC on any matter of national environmental significance under Section 505D(2)(a) of the EPBC Act

Minister for the Environment

EPBC Act Process

Assessment phase

Referral of a proposed action which may have the potential to cause significant impact on matter(s) of national environment significance, including water resources, in relation to coal seam gas and large coal mining development

Post-approval phase

Monitoring and audit of actions approved under the EPBC Act to ensure compliance with approval conditions, including management plans

Other scientific advice

At any time requests for scientific advice in relation to a matter of national environmental significance