

**Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and  
Large Coal Mining Development (IESC)  
Meeting 50, 8 March 2018**

**MINUTES  
Sydney**

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**Attendance and Apologies**

IN ATTENDANCE

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

APOLOGY

Professor Craig Simmons

SECRETARIAT AND SUPPORT

Matthew Dadswell  
Emily Grant  
Ann Hartley  
Jo Brennan

STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Peter Baker Office of Water Science	Sarah Taylor Office of Water Science
Natasha Amerasinghe Office of Water Science	

INVITED GUESTS

Dr Tanya Doody (Item 4.2) CSIRO Land and Water Flagship	Dr Peter Hancock (Item 4.2) Eco Logical Australia
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The meeting commenced at 1pm on Thursday 8 March 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.

Members also completed a bi-annual private circumstances declaration.

### **1.3 Confirmation of agenda**

The Committee endorsed the agenda for Meeting 50.

### **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**

The Committee noted the following items have been agreed out of session:

- advices on Central Queensland Coal Project, Moolarban Coal Mine Open Cut Optimisation Project and Ironbark No. 1 Coal Mine project were finalised consistent with the IESC's deliberations and provided to the decision makers; and
- minutes of the IESC's forty-ninth meeting on 12-14 December 2017 were confirmed and agreed for publication.

### **1.6 Correspondence**

The Committee noted the status of correspondence to 16 February 2018.

### **1.7 Forward planning agenda**

The Committee noted the forward planning agenda. It was noted that no requests for advice were received for the April meeting.

### **1.8 Environmental scan**

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

- Scientific inquiries into fracking in Western Australia and the Northern Territory
- Senate Inquiry into Water Use by the Extractive Industry; and
- The Australian Government's announcement of a Geological and Bioregional Assessment of the Isa Superbasin.

## **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 Roundtable**

The Committee met with representatives from peak bodies representing the Agriculture, Minerals and Gas Industries to provide context for the update to the IESC Information Guidelines and the new Explanatory Note: Uncertainty Analysis in Groundwater Modelling.

Representatives from the Australian Government, Queensland, South Australia and New South Wales government regulators also attended.

### **4.2 Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Explanatory Note Presentation**

The Committee received a presentation on the Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Explanatory Note and agreed to provide comments to the Office of Water Science.

The Chair thanked Dr Doody and Dr Hancock for the presentation.

### **4.3 Research Symposium Update**

The Committee received an update of progress to date and agreed to the topics and timings for each session under each of the proposed themes for the Symposium.

Lead Committee Members will continue to work with the Office of Water Science on the development of symposium content.

### **4.4 IESC Website Update**

The IESC website is being updated as agreed in the IESC Stakeholder Engagement Strategy 2017-2019. The Committee was updated on progress to date and noted the launch date of 23 March 2018.

## **Close of Meeting**

The meeting closed at 4.20pm on Thursday 8 March 2018.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contribution to the meeting.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for 11 – 12 April 2018.

Minutes confirmed as true and correct:

Dr Chris Pigram

IESC Chair

23 March 2018