

**Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and
Large Coal Mining Development (IESC)
Meeting 51, 11 April 2018**

**MINUTES
Brisbane**

Attendance and Apologies

IN ATTENDANCE

Dr Chris Pigram (Chair)
Dr Ian Prosser
Dr Glen Walker
Dr Jenny Stauber (via teleconference)
Professor Craig Simmons (via teleconference)
Dr Andrew Boulton (via teleconference)
Dr Wendy Timms (via teleconference)

APOLOGY

Professor Joan Esterle

SECRETARIAT AND SUPPORT

Emily Grant
Benjamin Klug
Ann Hartley (via teleconference)
Jo Brennen (via teleconference)

STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Peter Baker Office of Water Science	Sarah Taylor Office of Water Science
Mitchell Bouma (via teleconference) Office of Water Science	

The meeting commenced at 3.30pm on Wednesday 11 April 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.

1.3 Confirmation of agenda

The Committee endorsed the agenda for Meeting 51.

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:

- minutes of the IESC's fiftieth meeting on 8 March 2018 were confirmed and agreed for publication.

1.6 Correspondence

The Committee noted the status of correspondence to 29 March 2018.

1.7 Forward planning agenda

The Committee noted the forward planning agenda. It was noted that one request for advice was received for the May meeting.

1.8 Environmental scan

The Chair updated the Committee on his recent stakeholder meetings, including with the recently appointed Assistant Minister for the Environment, the Hon Melissa Price MP.

The Office of Water Science provided an update on developments since the March 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 recent announcement of four grants under the Gas Acceleration Program.

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 Finalisation of Information Guidelines

The Chair, Dr Prosser and Dr Walker updated the Committee on the outcomes of the consultants' workshop earlier that day where the Information Guidelines and the Explanatory Note were discussed.

The Committee discussed the submissions received during the public consultation process.

The Committee endorsed the updated Information Guidelines for proponents preparing coal seam gas and large coal mining development proposals.

The Committee agreed the Information Guidelines would be published in early May, ahead of the APPEA conference.

4.2 Explanatory Note Uncertainty Analysis in Groundwater Modelling

The Committee discussed the progress of the Explanatory Note and the nature of comments received during the public consultation period.

The Committee agreed to review the comments and finalise changes to the Explanatory Note out of session.

Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 5.00pm on Wednesday 11 April 2018.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contribution to the meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 23 – 24 May 2018 in Canberra.

Minutes confirmed as true and correct:

Dr Chris Pigram

IESC Chair

16 April 2018