

**Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and
Large Coal Mining Development (IESC)
Meeting 75, 15 April 2021**

**MINUTES
Videoconference**

ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

IN ATTENDANCE

Dr Chris Pigram (Chair)
Dr Andrew Boulton
Dr Catherine Moore
Professor Craig Simmons
Professor Jenny Davis
Dr Jenny Stauber
Professor Rory Nathan
Professor Wendy Timms

OFFICE OF WATER SCIENCE (OWS)

Peter Baker
Alex Hannan-Joyner (Items 1, 3.1, 3.3-3.5 and 4)
Benjamin Klug
Harrison Martin (Items 1.6, 1.8, 3 and 4)
Isabelle Francis (Items 3.4 and 4)
James Rae (Items 1.1-1.5, 1.7, 3.1 and 3.3)
Jason Smith
Kelly Strike
Mio Kuhnen
Nicola Smillie (Items 1.6, 1.8 and 3.3)
Praveen Sebastian (Items 1.1-1.4, 1.6, 1.8, 3 and 4)

INVITED GUESTS

Hugh Middlemis, Principal Groundwater Engineer, HydroGeoLogic (Item 3.1)
Dr Luk Peeters, Senior Research Scientist, CSIRO (Item 3.1)
Dr Peter Hancock, Principal Groundwater Ecologist, Eco Logical Australia (Item 3.2)
Dr Jodie Pritchard, Research Scientist, CSIRO (Item 3.2)

The meeting commenced at 9.00 am on Thursday 15 April 2021.

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

Before the meeting commenced, Committee members completed the Meeting Declaration of Interests.

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 75.

1.4 Confirmation of Out-of-Session decisions

The Committee noted that:

- advice on Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project was provided to the regulator and published in accordance with agreed timeframes; and
- minutes of the Committee's seventy-fourth meeting on 10-11 March 2021 were agreed out-of-session and published.

1.5 Correspondence

The Committee noted the status of correspondence to 29 March 2021.

1.6 Action Items

Ongoing items were noted and an update was 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 for 20 May 2021.

1.8 Environmental Scan

Committee members and secretariat reported back on developments in recent months, including:

- OWS meeting with the department's Environment Approvals Division on the Ensham Life of Mine Extension Project;
- OWS meeting with the relevant environmental consultant on the Russell Vale Colliery Revised Underground Expansion Project;
- OWS conducting an adequacy review of the proponent's response to the Committee's advice on the Fairhill Coal Project; and
- upcoming conferences and workshops.

2. Advice on Projects referred by governments

No projects were referred for advice.

3. Other business

3.1 Explanatory Notes Virtual Masterclass Series Update – Uncertainty analysis

Hugh Middlemis and Dr Luk Peeters discussed planning for the ‘Uncertainty analysis’ virtual masterclass with the Committee. The masterclass will be presented as part of the Explanatory Notes Virtual Masterclass Series.

3.2 Explanatory Notes Virtual Masterclass Series Update - Assessing groundwater-dependent ecosystems

Drs Peter Hancock and Jodie Pritchard discussed planning for the ‘Assessing groundwater-dependent ecosystems’ virtual masterclass with the Committee. The masterclass will be presented as part of the Explanatory Notes Virtual Masterclass Series.

3.3 Metagenomic Research Project Draft Work Plan

The OWS provided the Committee a summary of the Macquarie University’s Draft Work Plan for the Metagenomic Research Project. The Committee reviewed and agreed to the Draft Work Plan.

3.4 Uncertainty Analysis in Groundwater Modelling Presentation

Committee member Dr Catherine Moore gave a presentation on uncertainty analysis in groundwater modelling. The presentation provided an overview of the concepts involved in uncertainty analysis of groundwater models that are relevant to the Environmental Impact Statements commonly submitted to the OWS and the Committee.

3.5 Underground Coal Gasification – Leigh Creek Project Presentation

The OWS provided the Committee with an informative presentation on underground coal gasification and the Leigh Creek Energy Project.

4. Close of Meeting

The Chair thanked everyone for their contribution to the meeting.

It was acknowledged that Dr Catherine Moore will be resigning from the Committee and that this was her last meeting. Dr Moore was thanked for her contribution to the Committee during her tenure and wished all the best for the future.

The meeting closed at 4.00 pm on Thursday 15 April 2021.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 20 May 2021.

Minutes confirmed as true and correct:

Dr Chris Pigram AM, FTSE

IESC Chair

23 April 2021