

**Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and
Large Coal Mining Development (IESC)
Meeting 76, 20 May 2021**

**MINUTES
Videoconference**

ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

IN ATTENDANCE

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

APOLOGIES

Professor Craig Simmons

OFFICE OF WATER SCIENCE (OWS)

Peter Baker
Alannah Wood
Alex Hannan-Joyner (Items 1.5-1.8, 3.4 and 4)
Annabel O'Neill
Aranza Bulnes-Beniscelli
Benjamin Klug
Christina Fawns
Clara Tenniswood (Items 1.1-1.4 and 3.1)
Harrison Martin (Items 1.5-1.8, 3.2, 3.4 and 4)

Isabelle Francis
James Rae
Jason Smith
Kelly-Anne Lawler
Kelly Strike (Items 1, 3.2-3.4 and 4)
Mehdi Shabaninejad
Mio Kuhnen (Items 1, 3.2-3.4 and 4)
Misty Dawn Thorose (Items 1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4 and 4)
Praveen Sebastian

INVITED GUESTS

Item 3.1

Dustin Hobbs, Technical Lead/Project Manager/Principal Ecotoxicologist, Hydrobiology

Dr Trang Huynh, Technical Lead/Project Manager, Hydrobiology

Item 3.3

Peter Blackwell, Environment Approvals Division, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Sarah Taylor, Environment Approvals Division, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Lucy Long, Environment Approvals Division, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Arvid Pluschke, Environment Approvals Division, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

The meeting commenced at 9.00 am on Thursday 20 May 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 76 to include 3.4 Jawun Secondment Presentations from OWS staff, in regards to their time with Indigenous communities.

1.4 Confirmation of Out-of-Session Decisions

The Committee noted that:

- minutes of the Committee's seventy-fifth meeting on 15 April 2021 were agreed out-of-session and published.

1.5 Correspondence

The Committee noted the status of correspondence to 7 May 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 22-24 June 2021 in Canberra.

1.8 Environmental Scan

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

- progress of appointment processes for membership to the Committee;
- OWS continuing discussions with the department's Environment Approvals Division on the Russell Vale Colliery Revised Underground Expansion Project;
- OWS providing comments on the proposed Commonwealth conditions for the Tahmoor South Coal Project;
- Queensland Department of Environment and Science's final Environmental Impact Statement assessment report on the Central Queensland 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 – Deriving site-specific guideline values

Dustin Hobbs and Dr Trang Huynh discussed planning for the ‘Deriving site-specific guideline values for physico-chemical parameters and toxicants’ virtual masterclass with the Committee. The masterclass will be presented as part of the Explanatory Notes Virtual Masterclass Series.

3.2 eDNA Presentation

Committee member Professor Jenny Davis gave a presentation on environmental DNA (eDNA). The presentation provided an overview of eDNA methods and its application, with a particular emphasis on aquatic systems.

3.3 Commonwealth Regulator Virtual Roundtable

The Committee hosted an informal discussion with invitees from the Commonwealth Government regulator (the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment). The discussion covered various topics of mutual interest.

3.4 Jawun Secondment Presentations

OWS staff provided presentations to the Committee on their participation in the Jawun Virtual Secondment Program. OWS staff reflected on their experiences in supporting Indigenous-led organisations and initiatives.

4. Close of Meeting

The Chair thanked everyone for their contribution to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 4.15 pm on Thursday 20 May 2021.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 22-24 June 2021 in Canberra.

Minutes confirmed as true and correct:

Dr Chris Pigram AM, FTSE

IESC Chair

27 May 2021