

**Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and  
Large Coal Mining Development (IESC)  
Meeting 78, 28 July 2021**

**MINUTES  
Videoconference**

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**ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

IN ATTENDANCE

Dr Chris Pigram (Chair)  
Dr Andrew Boulton  
Professor Craig Simmons  
Professor Jenny Davis  
Dr Jenny Stauber  
Associate Professor Phil Hayes  
Professor Rory Nathan  
Professor Wendy Timms

OFFICE OF WATER SCIENCE (OWS)

Alison McMorrow, Assistant Secretary Biodiversity Policy and Water Science (Items 1.1-1.4 & 2.1)  
Peter Baker  
Alannah Wood  
Alex Hannan-Joyner (Items 1.5-1.8, 2, 3 & 4)  
Annabel O'Neill  
Aranza Bulnes-Beniscelli  
Benjamin Klug  
Christina Fawns  
Clara Tenniswood (Items 1.1-1.7, 2 & 3)  
Dominica O'Dea  
Harrison Martin (Items 1.5-1.8, 2, 3 & 4)  
Isabelle Francis  
James Rae  
Jason Smith  
Kelly-Anne Lawler  
Kelly Strike  
Mehdi Shabaninejad  
Mio Kuhnen  
Misty Dawn Thorose  
Tim Hunt (Items 1.5-1.8, 2, 3 & 4)

The meeting commenced at 9.00 am on Wednesday 28 July 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 a 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 78.

### 1.4 Confirmation of Out-of-Session Decisions

The Committee noted that:

- advice on Ensham Life of Mine Extension Project was provided to the regulator and published in accordance with agreed timeframes;
- advice on Saraji East Mining Lease Project was provided to the regulator and published in accordance with agreed timeframes; and
- minutes of the Committee's seventy-seventh meeting on 22-24 June 2021 were agreed out-of-session and published.

### 1.5 Correspondence

The Committee noted the status of correspondence to 11 July 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 as a videoconference for 31 August to 3 September 2021.

### 1.8 Environmental Scan

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

- the passing of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Standards and Assurance) Bill 2021* through the House of Representatives on 23 June 2021; and
- upcoming conferences and workshops.

## **2. Advice on Projects referred by governments**

No projects were referred for advice. The following advice-related items were, however, discussed.

### **2.1 IESC-OWS Business Process**

The OWS provides secretariat and technical support to the Committee, especially in regard to formulating advice on projects referred to the Committee. The Committee and the OWS discussed the current approach to providing and receiving support, and agreed to an improved set of business practices.

### **2.2 Review of the Information Guidelines & Potential Future Research Projects**

The Committee discussed approaches to reviewing the current IESC Information Guidelines and Explanatory Notes, previous IESC publications, and identifying new research projects. The Committee agreed that a review of the Information Guidelines was a priority, whereas other publications should be reviewed only if there are major relevant advances in technology.

## **3. Other business**

### **3.1 Underground Coal Gasification Presentation**

Committee member Associate Professor Phil Hayes gave a presentation on underground coal gasification (UCG). The presentation provided a technical examination of UCG and its processes based on overseas experience.

### **3.2 Stakeholder Engagement**

The Committee discussed numerous current and upcoming IESC stakeholder engagement projects. The OWS provided updates on the progress of these projects and the Committee provided their views on the proposed next steps.

## **4. Close of Meeting**

The Chair thanked everyone for their contribution to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 4.50 pm on Wednesday 28 July 2021.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for 31 August to 3 September 2021.

Minutes confirmed as true and correct:

Dr Chris Pigram AM, FTSE

IESC Chair

9 August 2021