

**Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and
Large Coal Mining Development (IESC)
Meeting 82, 15 December 2021**

**MINUTES
Videoconference**

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

APOLOGIES

Professor Wendy Timms

OFFICE OF WATER SCIENCE (OWS)

Peter Baker
Aimee McAllister
Andriana Stoddart
Aranza Bulnes-Beniscelli
Benjamin Klug
Christina Fawns
Dominica O’Dea
Fiona McKenzie-Smith
Frances Knight
Isabelle Francis
James Rae
Jacqueline Beerworth
Jason Smith
Kelly-Anne Lawler (Items 1, 3.1 [9.15-10am, 11-11.30am], 3.2 & 4)
Kelly Strike
Mehdi Shabaninejad
Mio Kuhnen
Tim Hunt (Items 1.5-1.8, 3.1 [10-11.30am], 3.2-3.5 & 4)

INVITED GUESTS

Items 3.1 & 3.2

John Doherty, Watermark Numerical Computing
Catherine Moore, GNS Science
Rod Dann, Director Queensland North Assessments

Item 3.4

Joan Esterle, Emeritus Professor, University of Queensland

The meeting commenced at 9.00 am on Wednesday 15 December 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.

Details on disclosures of interests are at Attachment A.

1.3 Confirmation of Agenda

The Committee endorsed the agenda for Meeting 82.

1.4 Confirmation of Out-of-Session Decisions

The Committee noted that:

- advice on Newstan Mine Extension Project was provided to the regulator and published in accordance with agreed timeframes; and
- minutes of the Committee's eighty-first meeting on 10-11 November 2021 were agreed out-of-session and published.

1.5 Correspondence

The Committee noted the status of correspondence to 30 November 2021.

1.6 Action Items

Ongoing items were noted and updates were 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 in the first week of February 2022.

1.8 Environmental Scan

The OWS reported on recent events.

2. Advice on Projects referred by governments

No projects were referred for advice.

3. Other business

3.1 GMSDI Discussion on Current Groundwater Regulatory Framework and Guidelines that Support It

The Groundwater Modelling Decision Support Initiative (GMDSI), National Groundwater Modelling Regulator Workshops and reflections on current groundwater regulatory framework and guidelines were discussed with guests John Doherty and Catherine Moore. The IESC advised on specific issues and challenges to address, and ideas and opportunities for progressing these initiatives for maximum impact.

3.2 GMSDI Discussion on Early Engagement on Water Resources

The concept of early engagement with a combination of relevant stakeholders, to improve outcomes, reduce unnecessary burden and help facilitate improved modelling approaches, was discussed with guest Rod Dann.

3.3 Ongoing Development and Use of Conceptual Models in the IESC Advice Process

Ongoing development of conceptual models as part of the IESC process for developing advice on coal seam gas and coal mining development proposals was discussed. A new combination of conceptual models with current arrangements will be trialled at the next IESC meeting.

3.4 Finalisation of the Explanatory Note on the Characterisation and Modelling of Geological Fault Zones

The final draft of the Explanatory Note on the *Characterisation and modelling of geological fault zones* was presented, and recent improvements explained, by the authors Associate Professor Phil Hayes and Emeritus Professor Joan Esterle. The other IESC members identified alterations, expansions or additions deemed necessary, and agreed that the Explanatory Note be published.

3.5 Applying Genomic Approaches to Groundwater Assessment: Phase 3 research project

The draft research project, *'Using metagenomic approaches (eDNA) to assess phreatic faunal and microbial responses to alterations in groundwater hydrology and water quality associated with coal mining and CSG development projects – Phase 3'* was discussed, and the IESC agreed to the scope.

4. Close of Meeting

The Chair thanked everyone for their contribution to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 4.50 pm on Wednesday 15 December 2021.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for the first week of February 2022.

Minutes confirmed as true and correct:

Dr Chris Pigram AM, FTSE

IESC Chair

23 December 2021

Attachment A

Item(s)	IESC Member	Disclosure	Determination
3.4	Associate Professor Phil Hayes	During 1.2 Disclosure of Interests, a determination was made regarding a potential conflict of interest between Associate Professor Phil Hayes' role as IESC member and role as co-author (engaged externally to his role as IESC member) of the Explanatory Note on the Characterisation and modelling of geological fault zones.	It was determined that for agenda item 3.4, Associate Professor Phil Hayes be part of the discussion of the Explanatory Note, so he could present the final draft and answer questions, but not be part of the IESC decision on whether the IESC agrees that the EN can be finalised and published on the IESC website.