

**Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and  
Large Coal Mining Development (IESC)  
Meeting 85, 13 April 2022**

**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

INVITED GUESTS

*Item 3.4*

Sanjeev Pandey, Executive Director, Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment (OGIA)  
Steven Flook, Director, Management Strategies and Implementation, OGIA  
Gerhard Schoning, Director, Assessment and Modelling, OGIA

OFFICE OF WATER SCIENCE (OWS)

Peter Baker, Director  
Aimee McAllister  
Andriana Stoddart  
Aranza Bulnes-Beniscelli  
Benjamin Klug  
Christina Fawns  
Dominica O’Dea  
Fiona McKenzie-Smith  
Frances Knight  
Isabelle Francis  
Jacqueline Beerworth  
James Rae  
Jason Smith  
Kelly Strike

Mehdi Shabaninejad  
Mio Kuhnen  
Praveen Sebastian

Note: OWS attendees listed above include those with full or partial attendance at Meeting 85.

## **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**

Committee members were invited to make disclosures. Committee members also completed a Meeting Declaration of Interests before the meeting commenced. 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 85.

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

The Committee noted that:

- the *Information Guidelines Explanatory Note: Characterisation and modelling of geological fault zones*, and the summary guide, were finalised and published on the IESC website.
- minutes of the Committee's eighty-fourth meeting on 9 March 2022 were agreed out-of-session and published.
- IESC input on the draft Regional Planning Framework was finalised and sent to the Priority Reform Delivery Section.

### **1.5 Correspondence**

The Committee noted the status of correspondence to 30 March 2022.

### **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 for 17-19 May 2022 in Brisbane.

### **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 Review of Information Guidelines Update**

The Committee discussed revisions to the *Information Guidelines for proponents preparing coal seam gas and large coal mining development proposals* based on comments from public consultation and from the Groundwater Modelling Decision Support Initiative (GMDSI). The Committee will continue to revise the guidelines out of session.

### 3.2 2022 IESC Stakeholder Event

The Committee discussed hosting an in-person stakeholder event and agreed to progress arrangements for an event in early 2023. Other stakeholder engagement opportunities were also discussed.

### 3.3 Metagenomics Research Project (Phase 1) – Factsheet finalisation

Revisions to the draft fact sheet on approaches to biomonitoring for groundwater ecosystems were discussed by the Committee. The revised draft will be trialled at the project's industry workshop on 29 April 2022.

### 3.4 OGIA Presentation on UWIR

Sanjeev Pandey, Steven Flook and Gerhard Schoning from the Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment (OGIA) presented to the Committee on the latest update of the underground water impact report for the Surat Cumulative Management Area (UWIR 2021).

## **4. Close of Meeting**

The Chair thanked everyone for their contribution to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 3.45 pm on Wednesday 13 April 2022.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for 17-19 May 2022 in Brisbane.

Minutes confirmed as true and correct:

Dr Chris Pigram AM, FTSE

IESC Chair

26 April 2022