

**Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and
Large Coal Mining Development (IESC)
Meeting 99, 4 October 2023**

**MINUTES
Videoconference**

ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

IN ATTENDANCE

Dr Chris Pigram (Chair)
Dr Andrew Boulton
Professor Jenny Davis
Dr Jenny Stauber (Item 3.2)
Dr Juliette Woods
Associate Professor Phil Hayes
Professor Rory Nathan
Professor Wendy Timms

OFFICE OF WATER SCIENCE (OWS)

Amelia Lewis	Jason Smith
Aranza Bulnes-Beniscelli	Loren Pollitt
Dylan Stinton	Sarah Taylor
Isabelle Francis	

APOLOGY: Des Owen, Director

Note: OWS attendees include those with full or partial attendance.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair acknowledged the traditional owners, past and present, on whose lands this meeting was held, and welcomed members of the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development (IESC) to the meeting.

1.1 Attendance and Apologies

IESC members in attendance and apologies are recorded above.

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 99.

1.4 Confirmation of Out-of-Session Decisions

The Committee noted that:

- minutes of the Committee's ninety-eighth meeting on 30 – 31 August 2023 were agreed out-of-session and published on 25 September 2023;
- advice on the Atlas Stage 3 Gas Project was provided to the regulator on 31 August 2023 and published on 14 September 2023; and
- the 2022 – 2023 Annual Review of Activities was published on 28 September 2023.

1.5 Correspondence

The Committee noted the status of correspondence to 26 September 2023.

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 an in-person meeting in Canberra on 8 – 9 November 2023.

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 the IESC Information Guidelines

The Committee discussed the comments received during the public consultation period for the IESC's *Information guidelines for proponents preparing coal seam gas and large coal mining development proposals* and how these comments will shape the final version.

3.2 Groundwater Monitoring Guidelines

The Committee discussed the latest draft *Information Guidelines Explanatory Note: Groundwater monitoring guidelines for coal seam gas and large coal mining development* and will be providing comments so that the author can revise the draft. The Committee agreed that there will then be a targeted review of the revised draft.

4. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 10.40 am on Wednesday 4 October 2023.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled as an in-person meeting in Canberra on 8 – 9 November 2023.

Minutes confirmed as true and correct:

Dr Chris Pigram AM, FTSE

IESC Chair

17 October 2023