

**Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Unconventional Gas Development and
Large Coal Mining Development (IESC)
Meeting 108, 27 – 28 August 2024**

**MINUTES
Videoconference**

ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

IN ATTENDANCE

Dr Chris Pigram (Chair)
Professor Rory Nathan [absent 27 August 12:15pm and 2:50pm]
Dr Andrew Boulton (Day 2 only)
Professor Jenny Davis
Dr Jenny Stauber
Associate Professor Phil Hayes
Professor Wendy Timms

APOLOGIES

Dr Juliette Woods

INVITED GUESTS

Item 3.1

Natasha Amerasinghe, Director – Water Resources Regulatory Support, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)

Derek Yates, Assistant Director – Water Resources Regulatory Support, DCCEEW

OFFICE OF WATER SCIENCE (OWS)

Dr Des Owen, Director
Ben Klug
Amelia Lewis
Aranza Bulnes-Beniscelli
Frances Knight
Dylan Stinton

Isabelle Francis
Dr Laura Richardson
Dr Sarah Taylor
Tess Nelson
Loren Pollitt

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 Unconventional Gas Development 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 108.

1.4 Confirmation of Out-of-Session Decisions

The Committee noted that:

- minutes of the Committee's 107th meeting on 24 July 2024 were agreed out-of-session and published on 21 August 2024; and
- updates to the IESC Committee Operating Protocol were agreed out-of-session on 7 August 2024.

1.5 Correspondence

The Committee noted the status of correspondence to 14 August 2024.

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 to be a videoconference on 2 – 3 October 2024.

1.8 Environmental Scan

The OWS reported on recent events.

2. Advice on Projects referred by governments

2.1 Beetaloo Basin exploration and appraisal

The Committee commenced and discussed initial assessments that will inform its advice on the potential impacts of unconventional gas exploration and appraisal activities in the Beetaloo Basin, Northern Territory. This advice has not been finalised and further assessments and discussion will continue at future meetings of the Committee.

3. Other business

3.1 Presentation: Coal Seam Gas Joint Industry Framework – update

Natasha Amerasinghe and Derek Yates (DCCEEW) presented a summary and update on the Coal Seam Gas Joint Industry Framework.

4. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 12.20pm on Wednesday 28 August 2024.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled as a videoconference on 2 – 3 October 2024.

Minutes confirmed as true and correct:

Dr Chris Pigram AM, FTSE

IESC Chair

8 September 2024