

MEETING SUMMARY

RESOURCES ADVISORY FORUM

MEETING	Number 6
DATE	Thursday 27 July 2017
TIME	1:30 – 4:00pm
VENUE	Department of Planning and Environment, Waratah Room, 320 Pitt Street, Sydney

MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

Chair: **Marcus Ray, Deputy Secretary, Planning Services, Department of Planning and Environment**

	Clr Owen Hasler	Association of Mining Related Councils
	Chris Berry	Canberra Region Joint Organisation
	Todd Hacking	Cement Concrete and Aggregates Australia
	Andy Honeysett	Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union
	Rachel Walmsley	Environmental Defender's Office
	Roger Stephen	Hunter Joint Organisation
	Andrew Hope	Namoi Regional Organisation of Councils
	Kate Smolski	Nature Conservation Council of NSW
	Stephen Hynd	NSW Aboriginal Land Council
	Adair Moar	NSW Farmers
	Claire Doherty	NSW Minerals Council
	Beverley Smiles	Total Environment Centre
	Dr. Simit Raval	UNSW School of Mining Engineering
Apologies:	Carolyn McNally	Secretary, Department of Planning and Environment
	Dr Malcolm Roberts	Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association
	Gabrielle Cusack	Canberra Region Joint Organisation
	Kane Thornton	Clean Energy Council
Department of Planning and Environment	Alison Frame	Deputy Secretary, Policy and Strategy
	David Kitto	ED Resource Assessments & Business Systems
	Oliver Holm	ED Resource Assessments and Compliance
	Erica van den Honert	Director, Assessment Practice
	Kristina Erzikov	A/Director Resources Policy
	Alison Barnard	Director, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement
	Jacqueline Hartley	A/Stakeholder Relationships Manager

ITEM	ACTIONS
1. Welcome	

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<p>The Chair welcomed members and alternate delegates and noted apologies. The Chair reminded members about the Terms of Reference and briefly touched on the agenda for the meeting.</p>	
<p>2. Actions arising from previous meeting</p>	
<p>The Chair confirmed that the previous Meeting Summary had been finalised and published on the Department's website. The Chair ran through the actions from the previous meetings, noting one open item: the Department and EPA to work together to further educate the community on their roles and responsibilities.</p>	
<p>3. EIA Improvement Project & Post-approval review</p>	
<p>The Department provided an update on the EIA improvement project and post approval review. Of particular interest to members are the following elements:</p> <p>1. Current status of the EIA Improvement Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nine guidelines were released for public exhibition on Wednesday, 5 July until Friday. Copies are available on the Department of Planning website (http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/EIAreview). • Workshops in Sydney, Parramatta, Ballina, Queanbeyan, Muswellbrook, Newcastle, Wollongong between 19 July and 11 August • Additional material currently being developed, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ cumulative assessment ○ improving professionalism in the EIA sector ○ EIA Policy Statement ○ regulation amendments ○ criteria for accepting / rejecting documents / timeframes ○ SEARs and Conditions to match the proposed improvements <p>Members were provided with contact details for the EIA project team, for ease of reference please see below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To discuss the project or request a meeting: 1300 305 695 or EIAProject@planning.com.au • Post a submission: EIA Improvement Project, NSW Department of Planning and Environment, GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001 <p>2. Post-approval review</p> <p>The Department explained the key issues identified through consultation and provided an update on post-approval documents.</p>	

ITEM	ACTIONS
<p>The Department discussed Environmental Management Plans and Monitoring and Response Plans.</p> <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <p>Members were asked for feedback on the EIA and told the Department would distribute the post-approval documents to members for review.</p> <p>The Department offered to speak to members, about the content of the post-approval requirements and explain their implementation.</p> <p>Comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disappointed the Central West was not included in the workshops. Suggest Dubbo and Gunnedah for future workshops. The Department advised if there is an interest we will go. Need a long-term focus in the Draft Overview document. Avoid creating uncertainty; Need more accountability for compliance issues Explore compliance enforcement like EPA <p>Bouquet for the EIA Guidelines team - Congratulations to Erica and her team on the EIA Guidelines “best work seen out of the Department in a long time and is in line with what we have been discussing for the past 18 months”.</p>	<p>Department to distribute post-approval requirements to members.</p> <p>Members to approach Department if they would like to discuss the post-approval requirements further.</p> <p>Members to provide any further inputs to questions posed by the Department on this item please contact Erica van den Honert.</p> <p>Department to update members at the next meeting on EIA progress.</p>
<p>4. Cumulative Impact Assessment</p>	
<p>The Department provided a presentation on cumulative impact assessment, and the work being carried out as part of the EIA Improvement Project to improve both the understanding of and approach to undertaking cumulative impact assessment on State significant projects.</p> <p>Cumulative impact assessment is a key issue raised by communities; but there is often a lack of common understanding what is involved: the term means different things to different people; it is often raised in relation to project assessment rather than to both strategic and project assessment; there is no single methodology for cumulative impact assessment – instead there are multiple methods that differ from issue to issue (dust, noise, biodiversity, etc); and there are a range of regulatory tools available to deal with cumulative impacts, rather than just conditions of consent.</p> <p>The Department will share targeted consultation on a guideline for cumulative impact assessment later this year.</p> <p>This guideline will include clear definitions for cumulative impact assessment, outline how cumulative impacts are currently assessed and regulated at both the strategic and project scale, and recommend ways to improve the assessment of cumulative impacts at the project level for State significant projects.</p>	

ITEM	ACTIONS
<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified the need for better strategic planning to avoid land use conflicts and cumulative impacts in the first place; Supported the development of the new guideline; and Sought feedback on the status of the action in the Strategic Land Use Plans to develop a cumulative impact assessment methodology for mining and coal seam gas proposals. 	<p>Members to contact David Kitto at the Department for any further discussion on cumulative impact assessment.</p>
<p>5. Assessment Report Review</p>	
<p>The Department recently commissioned Lisa Corbyn to carry out a review of the Department's assessment reports in consultation with key stakeholders, and to recommend ways in which these reports could be improved.</p> <p>Lisa Corbyn has now finished consulting with stakeholders, and is due to finalise her report shortly.</p>	<p>The Department to share the findings from the Assessment Report Review, and its proposed response to these findings at the November meeting.</p>
<p>6. Policy update - Social Impact Assessment (SIA)</p>	
<p>The Department provided an update on the SIA guideline for State significant resource projects, which has been discussed at previous meetings.</p> <p>The guideline is close to be being finalised. They have been informed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> feedback received during public exhibition of draft guideline further expert advice from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of Queensland's Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining Professor Frank Vanclay and Dr Ana-Maria Esteves – two leading international SIA academics. <p>The Department thanked members who had provided submissions on the draft guideline, and noted that edits have focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> strengthening the proportionality and scalability of the guideline closer integration with draft EIA Improvement Guidance Series providing additional detail and clearer direction transitional arrangements. 	<p>The Department to notify members when the guideline is ready for release.</p>
<p>7. Any other business and next steps</p>	
<p>The Chair confirmed that the next meeting is scheduled for 9 November 2017 and that the next meeting will include the following four items currently suggested on the Forward Work Plan:</p>	

MEETING SUMMARY

ITEM	ACTIONS
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Renewable energy and related policies2. Voluntary land and Acquisitions Policy3. Measures of Success/ Annual Review4. 2018 Work Plan	