**NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON COAL SEAM GAS AND
LARGE COAL MINING DEVELOPMENT**

 **Clause 21 Report**

This report has been jointly prepared by the Parties to the National Partnership Agreement on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development (the Agreement).

The Agreement between the Commonwealth and Queensland, New South Wales, South Australian and Victorian Governments was established in 2012. The Agreement aims to strengthen the regulation of coal seam gas and large coal mining development by ensuring that decisions are informed by substantially improved science and independent expert advice.

The Commonwealth established the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development (the IESC) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) in November 2012. The Agreement provides for the Commonwealth and signatory states to the Agreement to seek advice from the IESC at appropriate stages of the approvals process for coal seam gas or large coal mining development proposals that are likely to have a significant impact on water resources, and on which the Party is intending to make a regulatory decision.

Clause 21 of the Agreement requires the Parties to:

*...report to the Standing Council on Environment and Water by 30 April 2014 on their performance in referring applications to the IESC between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014*

As the Standing Council on Environment and Water was discontinued in December 2013, the Parties have agreed to satisfy Clause 21 by providing this report on their performance.

Table 1 below identifies the number of project applications referred to the IESC for advice by each Party for the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

**Table 1.** Number of project applications referred by each Party to the IESC.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Jurisdiction | No. of applications referred to IESC between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014 |
| Commonwealth | 13 |
| Joint Commonwealth & Queensland | 6 |
| Queensland | 4 |
| New South Wales | 2 |
| Victoria | 0 |
| South Australia | 0 |
| TOTAL | **25** |

Table 2 below identifies the project applications referred to the IESC by the Parties for period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

**Table 2**. Details of project applications referred to the IESC for advice.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| # | Project Title | Location | Requesting regulator | Stage referred | IESC advice provided to regulator |
|  | Cobbora Coal Project | NSW | CWLTH | EIA (supp) | 18 Apr 2013 |
|  | The Range Project | QLD | CWLTH | EIA (supp) | 18 Apr 2013 |
|  | Foxleigh Coal Mine Project | QLD | CWLTH | EIA (supp) | 18 Apr 2013 |
|  | Bengalla Mine Extension | NSW | CWLTH | EIA (draft) | 24 May 2013 |
|  | Wallarah 2 Underground Coal Mine | NSW | CWLTH | EIA (draft) | 24 May 2013 |
|  | Watermark Coal Project | NSW | CWLTH | EIA (draft) | 27 May 2013 |
|  | Bowen Gas Project | QLD | QLD | EIA (draft) | 24 May 2013 |
|  | Galilee Coal (Northern Export Facility) | QLD | QLD | EIA (supp) | 24 May 2013 |
|  | Coalpac Consolidation Project | NSW | CWLTH | EIA (draft) | 27 Jun 2013 |
|  | Byerwen Coal Mine | QLD | QLD & CWLTH | EIA (draft) | 26 Aug 2013 |
|  | Arrow Surat Gas Project | QLD | QLD & CWLTH | EIA (supp) | 22 Aug 2013 |
| 1.
 | Galilee Coal (Northern Export Facility) | QLD | CWLTH | EIA (supp) | 14 Nov 2013 |
|  | Duchess Paradise Project | WA | CWLTH | EIA (draft) | 12 Dec 2013 |
|  | Carmichael Coal Mine and Rail Project | QLD | QLD & CWLTH | EIA (supp) | 16 Dec 2013 |
|  | Springsure Creek Coal Project | QLD | CWLTH | EIA (draft) | 12 Dec 2013 |
|  | Meteor Downs South Coal Project | QLD | CWLTH | EIA (draft) | 12 Dec 2013 |
|  | Moranbah South Project | QLD | QLD & CWLTH | EIA (supp) | 10 Feb 2014 |
|  | Bulga Coal Optimisation Project | NSW | CWLTH | EIA (draft) | 10 Feb 2014 |
|  | Spur Hill Underground Coal Project | NSW | NSW | Gateway | 10 Feb 2014 |
|  | Bylong Coal Project | NSW | NSW | Gateway | 14 Mar 2014 |
|  | Teresa Coal Project | QLD | QLD & CWLTH | EIA (draft) | 14 Mar 2014 |
|  | North Surat Development | QLD | CWLTH | EIA (draft) | due by end April 2014 |
|  | Liddell Coal Operations | NSW | CWLTH | EIA (draft) | due by end April 2014 |
|  | Red Hill Mining Lease | QLD | QLD & CWLTH | EIA (draft) | due by end April 2014 |
|  | New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 | QLD | QLD & CWLTH | EIA (draft) | due by end April 2014 |